Correspondence 1888:
Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle

by

Sarah Orne Jewett

Edited by Terry Heller

Coe College

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Sarah Orne Jewett Press
1296 30th ST
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Internet Access to this Text

The Internet Archive

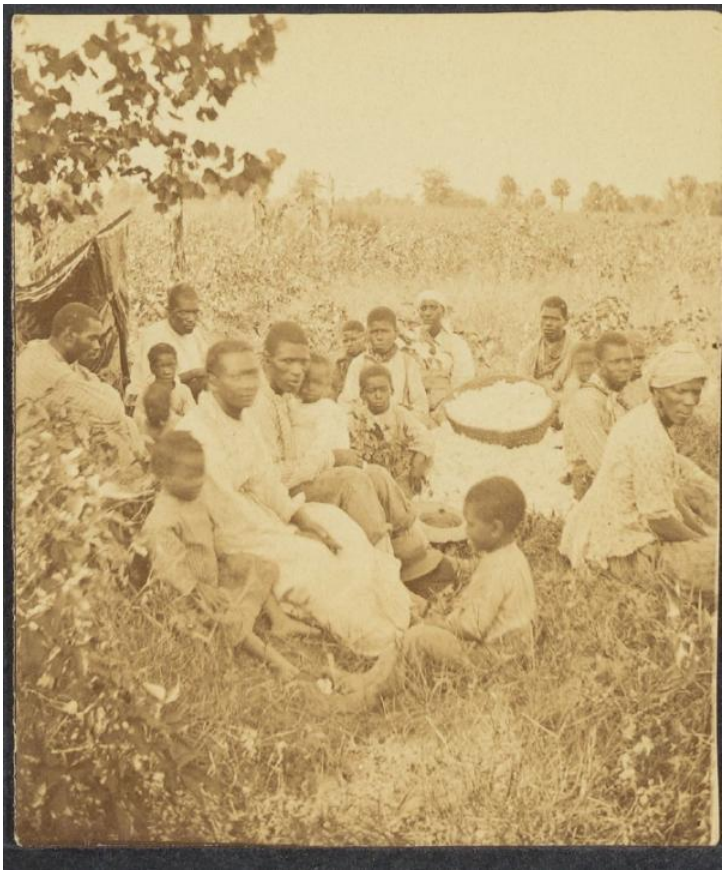
and

Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project

https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Following are images of the photos Sarah Orne Jewett sent to Mary Rice Jewett in her letter of 22 March 1888.

The photo of the steer cart may be of special interest, because Jewett includes such a cart, with some comic effect, in "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation" (1888), a story set in South Carolina that draws upon her 1888 trip.



Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents." appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:

https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html

Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Caroline Frances Perry (1820-1891), Jewett's mother.

Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister, often addressed as O.P. or "Old Peg."

Sarah Orne Jewett. Jewett's various nicknames appear often in these letters. She often signs herself Queen and Queen of Sheba or Sheby, and she is called Sadie, Pin, Pinny, Owl and Owlet.

Caroline (Carrie, Taddy) Augusta Jewett (1855-1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: (1836-1907), author and editor of *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett also wrote often to his wife, **Lilian Woodman Aldrich** (1841-1927). They often referred to Jewett as **Sadie Martinot**.

Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc (1840-1907), French author, critic, and translator. She published under the name Th. Bentzon.

Louisa (Loulie) Loring Dresel: (1864-1958), American artist and photographer, neighbor of Annie Fields. Her mother was **Anna Loring Dresel** (1830-1896).

Annie Adams Fields: (1834-1915), author and Jewett's domestic partner. Jewett often refers to her as A.F. Other nicknames include T.L., Flower and variations on "Fuff."

Eben Norton Horsford: (1818-1893), American scientist. Jewett became friends with all of his family.

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly.*

Celia Laighton Thaxter: (1835-1894), American author and artist.

Sarah de St. Prix Wyman Whitman: (1842-1904), American artist and designer of several Jewett book covers.

John Greenleaf Whittier: (1807-1892), American poet, frequently called "Thy Friend." Often mentioned in letters to and from him are members of his family: Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin **Gertrude Cartland** (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier traveled together in summers, and he lived in their home at Newburyport, MA, for most of his last fifteen winters. **Phebe Woodman** (1869-1953), adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921). Whittier's nephew **James Lewis Caldwell** (1839-1895) married Adelaide McClung (1843-1902). **Elizabeth Hussey** (1843-1909) was the daughter of Whittier's brother **Matthew** and namesake of his sister. She married Samuel T. Pickard, editor of the Portland *Transcript* and, later, biographer of Whittier. See *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 1, p. 337, *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* by Richard Cary.

Roger Bigelow Merriman* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Worcester January 1st 1888.

Dear Aunt Sarah:

I thank you very much for the book you sent me, and I am sure I shall like it as well as Heidi.*

There has been a great deal of rain and sleet today, and all the twigs on the trees are covered with ice.

Friday and Saturday there was some splendid skating here, and I had a delightful time{.}

Mamma wants me to tell you that she is very much pleased with the story of the Gray Man.*

Yours affectionately,

Roger Bigelow Merriman.

Notes

Merriman: See Helen Bigelow Merriman in Key to Correspondents.

Heidi: *Heidi* (1880-1) is a novel for young readers by Swiss author, Johanna Spyri (1827-1901). Wikipedia.

Gray Man: Jewett's "The Gray Man" first appeared in her collection *A White Heron* (1886).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 152 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Louisa Loring Dresel to Annie Adams Fields

[*Upper left of page 1, an etching of a cupid on a cloud*]

316 Beacon St.

Jan. 1, 1888

Dear Mrs. Fields,

My very best wishes for the new year come to you with the embroidery, which I meant you to have on Christmas but in spite of willing fingers it did not get done in time to wish you a merry Christmas{.}

— I hope you will like it none the less for getting it on New Year's day instead.

[*Page 2*]

I am afraid I cannot enlighten you as to the nature of the object, but you probably will have some brilliant inspiration as to the use it could be put to — It might be put on a chair-back, for what Papa calls an "un-tidy," but I am more inclined to regard it merely in the light of a "piece of drapery", as we say in the Studio, and as such I hope you may find it effective in some corner of your library. I cannot tell you how many loving thoughts of you, and your constant kindness to me, are worked in with those orange threads, and if the work

[*Page 3*]

remind you sometimes of this, its aim in life will be fully accomplished.

I know how very sorry you will be to hear of Mamma's illness. She was taken very ill Tuesday night; it is a very painful, but happily not at all dangerous internal trouble, and I am glad to be able to tell you, together with the first news of her illness, that she is already better. She had quite a comfortable day yesterday, and seemed quite bright this morning, though she could not sleep much, owing to a cough. Unluckily she has the family cold in addition to the other affliction.

[*Page 4*]

We have a capital little trained nurse, and I believe the doctor is well satisfied with Mamma's progress, so there seems nothing further to be done, but to wait for her to mend slowly.

I suppose she will get well more quickly as soon as she is allowed to eat substantially — gruel & chicken-broth are her only fare at present.

My cold is flourishing like the bay-tree, but is no longer intolerable, though it may keep me in the house a few days longer.

— Mamma asks me to give her very dearest love to you & Sarah —

— Please tell Sarah how dreadfully sorry I was not to see her when she called, and thank her for letting me see Marianne's* properly appreciative

[*Cross-written upper right corner, then up the right margin of page 1*]

letter — did you not think it very good, — very sweet, and is it not remarkable? I am keeping it a few days longer, tell Sarah, till Mamma is well enough to read it.

With much love and all good wishes for 1888 to both you & S.O.J.

Notes

Marianne's: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item , III. Letters to Annie Adams Fields.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Loring Dresel

[*2 January 1888*]*

Dear Mrs. Dresel

Can you give the bearer the address of the nurse you had lately — unless you know that she is already taking care of someone? I am sorry to say that Mrs. Fields is still so ill that she needs

[*Page 2*]

somebody beside me — In haste with love

Sarah O. Jewett

148 Charles St.

Monday morning

[*Apparently on the outside of the folded note*]

Mrs Dresel

376 Beacon St.

———————

or Miss Dresel

Wait for answer —

Notes

1888: In the upper right corner of page 1, appear the month and year in what looks like the same ink, but not certainly in the same hand, as the rest of the letter; this is not Jewett's characteristic way of dating her letters. The composition date is inferred from the other letters Jewett wrote reporting on the illness of Annie Adams Fields at the beginning of 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Anne C. Putnam to Annie Adams Fields

63 Marlboro St

Jan. 3rd [*1888*]*

Dear Mrs Fields

As you & Mifs Jewett* know Old Deerfield, I am sure you will be interested in the Story of the Willard House which is now our house. The Story

[*Page 2*]

was written by Mrs Wynne's mother,* at the request of the Historical Society, who were intending to publish it in pamphlet form, when it occurred to Mrs Wynne & myself that it would be interesting to make some drawings of the

[*Page 3*]

house, to publish with it, which we have accordingly done —

We are looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you & Mifs Jewett at our Studio some afternoon.

Is Mabel's* next visit enough of a probability to wait till she comes,

[*Page 4*]

or may we fix upon a day before she comes, & will you come again if she is with you later? Now that we are near neighbours of yours, & have no stairs to climb, we feel less hesitation in asking for [two *?*] calls.

With Mrs Wynne's & my kind regards to Mifs Jewett & yourself —

Yours sincerely

Anne C. Putnam

Notes

1888: This date seems probable because the book by her mother that Putnam mentions was published in 1887.

Penciled at the bottom of page 3 is this note: Taken from Story of the Old Willard House of Deerfield. Mass. Catharine B. Yale.

Catharine Brooks Yale (1818-1900), of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, was the author of *Story of the old Willard House of Deerfield, Mass* (1887). Her daughter was Madeline Yale Wynne (1847-1918). Find a Grave and Deerfield Arts and Crafts.

Deerfield Arts and Crafts presents pages on Wynne and Annie C. Putnam (1850-1924). She and Wynne shared a Boston studio in the 1880s.

Mabel's: Probably this was Mabel Lowell Burnett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 319, III. Letters to Annie Adams Fields.

George Peter Alexander Healy* to Eben Horsford Fragment

[*Paris, 4 January 1888*]

I saw by the papers that Miss Sarah Jewett has inherited a fortune* lately, if it is true congratulate her for me, we sometimes have the pleasure of seeing Miss Adams, who is on a visit to our friend Mrs. Cleveland.*

Notes

Healy: American portrait painter, George Peter Alexander Healy (1813-1894). He is perhaps best remembered for his portrait of "The Young Abe Lincoln," though he produced portraits of several presidents.

fortune: The New York *Times* of 11 December 1887, p. 3, reported from South Berwick, Me., dateline Dec. 10. "Miss Sarah Orne Jewett, the authoress, who is a native of this place has come into possession of a snug little fortune by the recent death of an uncle." See Key to Correspondents.

Jewett's uncle, William Durham Jewett, died on 4 August 1887.

Miss Adams ... Mrs. Cleveland: Miss Adams presumably is one of two sisters of Annie Adams Fields who remained unmarried and spent time in Europe: Sarah Holland Adams and Elizabeth Adams. See Fields in Key to Correspondents. Fields and Jewett were acquainted with the family of President Grover Cleveland (1837-1908), who married Frances Folsom in 1886, while he was serving his first term (1885-1889). That Cleveland was in office at the time of this letter suggests that perhaps Frances Cleveland is not the Mrs. Cleveland named here.

The manuscript of the whole letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 110: Folder 10. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts.

Sarah Orne Jewett to an unknown recipient
Fragment

[*early 1888*]*

I return the scheme for the papers about Mr. Longfellow. I should think that they might be of great assistance. It will [*missing material*]

[*Page 2*]

I hope to find within a day or two that my friend* is better.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1888: This date is only a guess, but the notes below offer some support for it. They also suggest that Jewett may be writing to the compiler of an 1888 collection of papers on Longfellow, Elbridge S. Brooks.

This text appears on two sides of a 4" x 4" square of paper.

Mr. Longfellow: American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Key to Correspondents.

Though a scheme for papers on Longfellow could have come along almost any time after his death in March 1882, a likely time when such a collection would have been of "great assistance," would have been during the spring of 1887, when Jewett was serving on a Boston area committee to organize an authors reading to benefit a memorial for the poet. As secretary of that committee, Jewett might well become a person to be consulted about publishing a collection of papers about Longfellow.

Elbridge Streeter Brooks (1846-1902) published *Longfellow Remembrance Book: A Memorial for the Poet's Reader-friends* in 1888. It contains essays about Longfellow by Brooks and two of Jewett's correspondents, John Greenleaf Whittier and Louise Imogen Guiney, along with the poet's brother, Rev. Samuel Longfellow and others.

friend: If the guess at the date of this fragment is correct, then the friend almost certainly would be Annie Adams Fields who was so seriously ill early in 1888 that she and Jewett decided to travel south for the remainder of the winter. That Jewett does not name her friend suggest that she and the recipient were not well acquainted.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 3 Folder 158.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

148 Charles Street

Tuesday morning

[*3 January 1888*]*

My dear Loulie

We've been having a little hospital too! for Mrs. Fields* is ill in bed with such a bad cold that at one time she was threatened with a worse ailment. She is a great deal better today however and wishes me to tell you how affectionately she thanks you for your beautiful new present. It could not

[*Page 2*]

have come in a better time for she has enjoyed it so much and we both look at it from hour to hour and keep it in plainest sight in her room — She will thank you later herself, but she could not leave you in doubt any longer about how very much pleased and touched she is by your kindness —

I hope that Mrs.

[*Page 3*]

Dresel is better by this time? I enjoyed Ellis's* call very particularly on Sunday. I wish that he could come oftener — I must leave everything else to be said when I see you and I hope that will be soon —

With best new year wishes.

Yours lovingly

S. O. J.

And I must say again how I delight in my Christmas photographs —

Notes

1888: In the upper left corner of page 1, appear the month and year in what looks like the same ink, but not certainly in the same hand as the rest of the letter; this is not Jewett's characteristic way of dating her letters.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Ellis's: Dresel's brother. See Dresel in key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Wednesday [Evig *so it appears*]

[*4 January 1888*]

Dear Loulie

I have disconnected my invalid's bell* from the one that rings "below stairs{"} — I think you can find a place to do it if you look on the landing or if not you can just snip the upstairs wire & have it wired together again when you

[*Page 2*]

get ready — You see my mind is intent upon [moving *?*] ! My invalid does not grow any worse which is something to be very thankful for, but pneumonia is such a treacherous foe that I never feel very easy.

We got a nurse and she does very well

[*Page 3*]

and by another day will be of [even *?*] more use — Miss Cochrane* is here & helps me wonderfully — in ways that the nurse cannot, out door things &c — How nice about your nurse liking my stories! —— Goodbye dear Loulie — Thank Mr. Dresel for coming & give my love to Mamma — It

[*Page 4*]

has been very nice to have this little talk with you.

S. O. J.

Notes

1888: In the upper left corner of page 1, appear the month and year in what looks like the same ink, but not certainly in the same hand, as the rest of the letter; this is not Jewett's characteristic way of dating her letters.

invalid's bell: Jewett's invalid is Annie Adams Fields. Soon after this letter, Jewett took Mrs. Fields south.

Miss Cochrane: Jessie Cochrane. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

148 Charles Street Boston

Boston 8 January 1888

Dear Anna

I happened to see the number of the American Hebrew this morning [*deletion*] the memorial to Miss Lazarus* and your letter reminds me of your own pamphlet* about the Jews in General! —

You know that you promised me a copy, and wrote me about a new edition that was to be waited for. I did not answer for I thought D. L. & Co. would be sending the little

[*Page 2*]

book along but it has [never *corrected*] come.

When I was reminded of it again this morning I said to myself that I would hunt it up for I have always wished to see it. Then I reflected that you might really have thought that I had it all this time and never said a word about it! So this is by way of a sign of life, and to say that you are not to take any

[*Page 3*]

trouble, and if the pamphlet is not at hand — next time I go down Franklin St. I will speak with D. L. & Co. & thank you kindly all the same —

— I saw Ella* W. (Ella L. I mean) on Friday — She is ^still^ worried about her husband, though I think his 'case' is ^called^ more promising — They think of going to the South for a little while for a change & holiday.

Alice* is — I should think — a trifle more selfish and unbearable than ever — That seems to ^be^ an

[*Page 4*]

illness which has “a complete lack of moral basis” for its only cause!

With which kind judgment I will conclude!

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

memorial to Miss Lazarus: The American Jewish poet Emma Lazarus (July 22, 1849 - November 19, 1887), was author of "The New Colossus," the sonnet that eventually appeared on the plaque of the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. *The American Hebrew*, published weekly, presented a memorial issue for Emma Lazarus on 9 December 1887 (Bette Roth Young, *Emma Lazarus in Her World: Life and Letters*, 1997, p. 221). Dawes contributed a piece to this issue, as did a number of Jewett acquaintances, including: Mary Mapes Dodge, Edmund Stedman, Charles Dudley Warner, and John Greenleaf Whittier (Young, p. 225).

pamphlet: C. Carroll Hollis explains:

> Anna had written a long article for the *American Hebrew* which had been reprinted and bound for separate distribution. Anna Laurens Dawes ... had a small reputation as a writer herself, although her journalistic career began after the correspondence with Sarah had passed its high period. She wrote numerous articles for *Century, Critic, Harper's, Lend-a-Hand,* and *Outlook* in the 1880s and 1890s, as well as the following books: *The Modern Jew, His Present and Future* (New York, 1884), 36 pp. (Reprinted from the *American Hebrew*); *How We Are Governed: An Explanation of the Constitution and Government of the United States* (Boston, 1885), 423 pp. (Went through five editions up to 1896); *Charles Sumner* (New York, 1892), 330 pp. (Makers of America Series). Other aspects of her interesting career may be found in the obituary notice in *Publisher's Weekly*, 134 (October 1, 1938), 1291.

A second edition of *The Modern Jew, His Present and Future*, published by D. Lothrop, appeared in 1886.

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

Alice: Hollis reports that Alice Walworth May, Ella's sister, "was apparently something of a problem in the Walworth household. Subsequent references reveal that Sarah and Anna finally came to dislike her, although earlier they had taken her side in family differences."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. Box 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Miss Macy*

148 Charles Street

Boston 12 January 1888

Dear Mifs Macy

I thought of you when you came up to town and supposed that you were again my neighbor — until your note came — I should certainly have seen you but for the last 10 days Mrs. Fields* has been ill and I have been out very little in consequence. After I came back from the

[*Page 2*]

country where I am going today ^for a few days visit^ I mean to pay you an early call — Thank you for telling me where you are —

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Macy: The recipient of this letter has not been identified. She may be Frances "Fanny" Mitchell Macy (1859-1889). Annie Fields was acquainted with Macy's aunt, the Vassar College astronomer, Maria Mitchell (1818-1889).

The Prospect Hill Cemetery page offers the following:

Fanny was the only child of Alfred Macy and Anne Mitchell Macy. She was the great granddaughter of Peleg Mitchell and Obed Macy. Fanny painted portraits, and her artistic endeavors were the subject of an article in a Boston newspaper. The Nantucket Historical Association's Picturing Nantucket quotes from the clipping:

Miss Fanny Macy, who has been studying art for the past two winters with Gaugengigh in this city, is the niece of Prof. Maria Mitchell, the astronomer. She has recently made what is said to be an excellent portrait of her distinguished aunt. Miss Macy spends her summers in Nantucket, where there is much to employ her in the abundant picturesque sketching material.

In 1876, Fanny went on a grand tour of Europe with Helen Marshall (lot 161), chaperoned by her mother Anne Mitchell Macy. Fanny spent some time in Asheville, NC, seeking relief for her "feeble health". On her return trip home to Nantucket, feeling exhausted, she stopped over in Washington, where she died at Garfield Memorial Hospital. She was thirty years old. Fanny's cause of death was recorded as "chronic pleurisy".

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Friday night

[*13 January 1888*]*

The Doctor writes me to tell you that A.F. is better today (though very weak) and is doing as well as we could expect — I have waited until this last minute so as to tell you exactly

Lovingly yours

S O J

Notes

1888: Though this is only a guess, Jewett's report to Whittier about the health of Annie Adams Fields works very well as the occasion for Whittier's letter to Jewett of 19 January 1888. However, while this date is likely, this letter could have been written almost any Friday between Christmas 1887 and 19 January 1888, and there were other times when Fields was seriously ill.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 12 letters to unidentified persons; [n.d.]. Box:12 identifier: MS Am 1844, (8616).

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward to Sarah Orne Jewett

Eastern Point

14 Janry 1888.

Dear girl:

Are you there?

Are you anywhere?

How are you? "What?

Where? Why? Whence?

Whither?" Are you strong again?

Do let me know. And when will you come to see me?

Yours always lovingly

E.S.P.

Notes

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Ward, Elizabeth Stuart (Phelps) 1844-1911. 2 letters; 1888 & [n.d.]. bMS Am 1743 (227).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Oak Knoll

1st Mo 19 1888

My dear Sarah

I am very sorry to hear of dear Annie Fields'* illness. I had heard of it before thy letter this [morning *?*]. I have been too ill myself to read or write for the last three weeks, and if there was any mention of her in the papers, I have not seen it. Do write again [on receipt *?*] of this. If love would aid her recovery, I send her enough to make her well.

[*Page 2*]

I am myself [5 *unrecognized words*] and feel that [the end *?*] cannot be far off. I am so glad you both called here. I thought I {had} never seen her look more lovely. Give her all my love, and prayer. I am sure she will get well, for she is needed here. I know thee will do all that is possible for her. I wish I could be with thee.

Ever affectionately,

John G Whittier

I am delighted with "Law Lane"* being thy best. I had several times thought

[*Page 3*]

the old [*3 unrecognized words*] believe [farmers *or* famous *?*], as a [*unrecognized word*] father.

Notes

Annie Fields': Annie Adams Fields.

Law Lane: Jewett's story, "Law Lane," appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* in December 1887.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-4793.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Oak Knoll 1/22 1888

Dear Sarah. Thy note was very welcome, for it tells me that our beloved friend is not worse, but somewhat better. I had a line from Celia Thaxter* yesterday morning. Give my love to dear Annie. Be careful of thyself, for her sake as well as thine, and mine.

Ever affectionately

J. G. W.

Notes

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this card is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-4790.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horatio Lamb

148 Charles St.

23 January 1888

Dear Mr. Lamb.

I have sent a note at once to Mr - Houghton about John Mackay* and I hope that some good will come of it —

Thank you very much: Mrs. Fields is gaining slowly now. Will you please tell Rose* with my love?

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Houghton ... John Mackay: Henry Oscar Houghton. Key to Correspondents.

John Mackay has not yet been identified. True to her promise, Jewett wrote to Mr. Houghton about him on 28 January 1888, recommending him as a printer. However, it is somewhat puzzling that Jewett says here she has already written to Houghton, when her known letter to him is dated 5 days later.

Rose: Rose Lamb, sister of Horatio. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edmund Clarence Stedman

148 Charles Street

Boston 23 January 1888

My dear Mr. Stedman

I am sorry to tell you that Mrs. Fields* has been very ill with pneumonia, and is gaining so slowly that we have not dared yet to let her have any letters — I am sure that yours is one that she will take great

[*Page 2*]

pleasure in answering as soon as she possibly can.

I must say a word for myself since you are my neighbor down the river: I have not shown myself so neighborly at Kelp Rock* as I hoped, for the last two summers have been broken ones with me and I have hardly been in Portsmouth even for a day.

With best regards and thanks for many pleasures, I am

Yours sincerely S. O. Jewett

Notes

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Kelp Rock: The name of Stedman's summer home at Newcastle, NH, built in 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to the Editors of *America*

148 Charles St. Boston

27 January 1888

Editors of The American*

Gentleman

I send the story A Player Queen (or A Tavern Garden whichever you please) and I ask you to pardon the look of the manuscript which should have been put through a final ~~revision and~~ copying. I find I

[*Page 2*]

cannot do that just now for which I am very sorry, but I think that you will not find much trouble in making it out although it is a little [fumbled *?*] — I enclose stamps in case you like to return it — Allow me to give my very best wishes for the American's success; it seems to me that such a paper as you propose is very much needed ——

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett.

Notes

American: Jewett has erred in writing the name of the magazine, or perhaps it was not clear what the magazine's name would be at the time she wrote. Her story appeared in *America* 1 (July 28, 1888) 6-8, with the title, "A Player Queen."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Oscar Houghton

148 Charles Street

28 January

[*1888*]*

Dear Mr. Houghton

I was very much interested about this boy of whom Mr. Horace Lamb* reminds me — His great

ambition and entire devotion to the idea of being a Riverside Press printer and no other! roused my esprit de corps* at once!

How many such appeals

[*Page 2*]

you must get every week! but perhaps there might be a vacant place by and by, and John Mackay* — care of Mr. H. A. Lamb 69 Chauncy Street might hear of it — Do not give yourself the trouble of making any reply to this note.

—— I know that you are glad to hear that Mrs. Fields is [*deleted letters* gain *?*] gaining [strength *corrected*], though it is so very slowly. I

[*Page 3*]

have been most anxious about her for indeed it has been a very serious illness —

Believe me

Yours always sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

My best regards to Mrs. Houghton, please

Notes

1888: Almost certainly this letter was composed in 1888. See Jewett to Horatio A. Lamb of 23 January 1888.

In the upper left corner of page 1, underlined in blue ink and in another hand: Sarah O. Jewett.

At the bottom right of page 1 and again at the bottom left of page 3, stamped in dark black: HOH.

Jewett has turned page 3 to the left 90 degrees before writing her text.

Horace Lamb: Horatio Appleton Lamb (1850-1926), son of a prominent Boston merchant, Thomas Lamb (1796-1887), and brother of painter and Jewett correspondent, Rose Lamb. Key to Correspondents. Horatio Lamb was a wholesale merchant and then treasurer of Simmons College. Two of his daughters became art collectors and patrons of the arts: Aimée (1893-1989), also a painter, and Rosamund (1898-1989). See also Back Bay Houses.

esprit de corps: French: pride and loyalty in a group membership. Jewett appears to have written "esprit du corps," but this is not really clear.

John Mackay: This person has not been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Oak Knoll

2nd Mo 1 1888

My dear Friend

I have heard nothing from our dear Annie Fields* since Phebe* called on you. I hope no news is good news, and that she is slowly gaining strength. I hope notwithstanding the bitter cold weather and care and anxiety that thee are as well as when Phebe

[*Page 2*]

saw thee. I asked her how thee looked: "very bright and [*unrecognized words*]." was the answer.

I cannot give a very good report of myself. The long continued pain has left me, but it has left me weak, and with the old trouble of sleeplessness.

Give my dearest love to A.F. God bless her!

Affectionately

and gratefully thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

Annie Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Phebe: Phebe Woodman Grantham. See Whittier in principal correspondents, above.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-4786.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Wednesday 148 Charles Street

[*1 February 1888*]*

Dear Friend

A. F.* says she*:* [Tell *corrected*] him to take a glass of milk and a tablespoonful of ^Saint Croix^ rum* and gently combine them and [add *corrected*] ~~two~~ ^four!^ good-sized lumps of sugar stirring slowly{.} Then drink and be thankful at 11 am (bitters) and ten pm.. (nightcap)

And I did mean to write you earlier this day, but

[*Page 2*]

your dear note makes my pen go faster. I have just seen daylight after a very big cold, and when ones head tries to be as big as the gas house (like the frog in the fable that also tried such experiments)* letters are apt to be put aside —

The cold gave me a nice excuse for staying by the fire in dear A.F.'s room — and to

[*Page 3*]

tell the truth I shall find it hard to give up her best society and take my chances of [less *corrected*] interesting people out in the world again! She gains steadily and has even begun to sit up. We keep a peat fire, do you know how nice it is? Lets buy a peat bog and go into business!

— Miss Cochrane* and

[*Page 4*]

I enjoyed seeing Phebe* so much the other day. I hope she will always run in when she comes to town, it is so nice to see her and to hear from you. Goodnight, and take A. F.'s best love and mine. She says, "I wonder if he has any first rate rum???" Which means that there are those who know where there is [some *corrected*]!!

S. O. J.

Notes

1888: 1 February fell on Wednesday in 1888. Richard Cary has assigned this date, probably noting that it responds to Whittier's letter to Jewett, also of 1 February.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Saint Croix rum: Also known as Cruzan Rum, distilled in Saint Croix in the U. S. Virgin Islands since 1760.

frog in the fable: Jewett probably refers to Aesop's fable, "The Frog and the Ox," in which a frog attempts to inflate himself to equal an ox in size, and explodes in the attempt.

Cochrane: Jessie Cochrane. Key to Correspondents.

Phebe: Phebe Woodman Grantham. See Whittier in principal correspondents, above.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford

148 Charles St —

Monday

[*Winter 1888*]*

Dear Prof. Horsford

I have been hoping to go out to see you but I have had to keep quiet, this being famous weather for the encouragement of rheumatism!

It was so kind of you to send me a beautiful book* and Mrs. Fields* and I took great pleasure in looking it over and carefully following your

[*Page 2*]

School-boy fortunes — I always wish I had gone on both the first expedition and the second whenever I hear you talk about them. I am so glad to have the book to keep, and I shall think a great deal of it —

Mrs. Fields was so sorry to miss your

[*Page 3*]

call and Mrs. Horsford's and hopes it will not be long before she sees you again — I am going home to make my Mother a few days visit (for I really dont dare to stay longer in Berwick!) and when I come back I shall surely go to Cambridge — With ever so much love and many thanks, yours always lovingly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Winter 1888: This date is speculative. Jewett's remark about rheumatism suggests that she writes in the winter. If the note below on the book Horsford has sent Jewett is correct, then she probably composed this letter early in 1888.

beautiful book: Given Jewett's description, this seems like to be the printing of Horsford's *The Discovery of America by Northmen* (1888), his address at Boston's Fanueil Hall on 29 October 1887.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 63: Folder 41. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Adams Fields

Clifford. Wed. night

Feb 1st [*1888*]*

My dearest Pinny & Flower:*

I thought I certainly could go down to dear Charles St.* tonight, but yesterday in Ross Turner's* studio I caught cold & I feel like a fool & can hardly hold up my head tonight. There was a stove red hot, a cylinder of heat, & at each end of the room the window was opened to cool off, & tho' I tried to circumvent it, my fate caught me by the throat, & now I must be careful — I'm so disappointed! Hope Pinny

[*Page 2*]

got the tickets back all right. Wish Sandpiper could have gone!

Do Pinny come & see Sandpiper again & tell her all about how Flower is, & if cant come, then write a word to tell her all about — Does she sit up yet? Poor, dear Flower, what a long siege! Sandpiper to be careful for she hasnt any Pinny or anybody if she falls sick. Is Jessie* there? Dear love to her, dear

[*Page 2*]

love to Flower & to Pinny from

[*Signature is a stick drawing of a sandpiper.*]

Notes

1888: This date is provided without a rationale by the Boston Public Library. However, there is support in other letters from January and February 1888 indicating that Fields was seriously ill beginning in January, which eventuated in Jewett and Fields traveling to Florida in late winter of 1888. Jessie Cochrane also was in Boston at this time, and in 1888 February 1 fell on a Wednesday.

During this period of her life, Thaxter and Karl wintered at the Clifford Hotel in Boston. See Rosamond Thaxter, *Sandpiper* (Randall 1963,1999), p 185.

Flower: Annie Adams Fields.

Charles St.: The Boston residence of Annie Adams Fields.

Turner's: Ross Sterling Turner (1847-1914) was a painter, watercolorist, and illustrator, and a mentor to Celia Laighton Thaxter. See notes for Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford of Sunday morning, March 1884.

Jessie: Jessie Cochrane. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 5 (230-249).

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Saturday morning

[4 February 1888]*

I send just a word to tell you dear friend, that Mrs. Fields* is getting on very well — and sits up more and longer every day and begins to look like herself again. You don't say any thing about that Santa Cruz rum!* Phebe* will send me a word (on the edge of a circular!) to

[*Page 2*]

let A. F. know if she may send you any —

We both send love at any rate —

I watch the boys skating on the river and think wistfully of my river at home and how I should like to go along under the bank on that edging of smooth ice

[*Page 3*]

with an alder bough to whip me in the face now and then — I hope that you are getting over the blows of a worse whip [called *corrected*] neuralgia? but winter is half over and we shall be playing outdoors again before long —

Yours affectionately,

Sarah.

[*Page 4*]

Mr. Lowell was here a long time in the twilight yesterday and sat here by the bedroom fire with A.F. and read us a beautiful poem about Turner's picture of the old ship Téméraire.* He said it was for the Atlantic.

Notes

1888: See Jewett to Whittier of 1 February 1888.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields, also A. F.

Santa Cruz rum: In her letter to Whittier of 1 February, Jewett refers to Saint Croix rum. Presumably she means the same here.

Phebe: Whittier's niece, Phebe Woodman Grantham.

Téméraire: James Russell Lowell's "Turner's Old Téméraire" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1888

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier,"

Essex Institute Historical Collections 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

148 Charles Street

Boston 5th February

[1*888*]*

Dear Anna

I did get the Modern Jew* at last! I [should *corrected*] have told you so weeks ago but I have been very much taken up into a habit of hurried early-morning note writing by Mrs. Fields's* long illness, so that I find it hard to begin to write letters again ——

I was very much interested in your

[*Page 2*]

essay — and I was tempted to ask you to give me some [titles *corrected*] of books so that I could go on growing wise as to this great subject. Indeed it is far too great for one to be bound by ignorant prejudice as I have been; it is such a good hit at me when you ask whether I am willing to have America represented by the typical Yankee! I have heard

[*Page 3*]

Mr. Lowell* say most interesting things about the growing political power of the Jewish race and I believe that he has an uncommon liking for tracing unsuspected lines of ^Jewish^ heredity!

Thank you very much for the essay — I shall beg Mrs. Fields to read it when she is equal to essays again.

—— I have been here since the holidays and have only been at home once but Berwick was going on well without me. I am

[*Page 4*]

hoping that Mary* will be here for a time later in the season —

I have not seen Ella* lately — I think that she must be in the South as she told me [that *corrected or deleted*] she was journeying that way. I suppose that you are in the middle of the season? but I must not forget to tell you that I read your Lend-a-Hand paper* with great satisfaction the other day —

Ever yours sincerely

S O Jewett

Notes

1888: See Jewett to Dawes of 8 January 1888.

Modern Jew: Dawes, *The Modern Jew, His Present and Future*, published by D. Lothrop (1884). A second edition appeared in 1886.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields, also A. F.

Mr. Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

Ella: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

paper: It seems probable that Dawes sent Jewett a copy of her most recent article in *Lend a Hand*, "The Union for Home Work in Pittsfield, Mass." in volume 3 (February 1888), pp. 75-80.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. Box 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*"* *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to George Lothrop Lewis

148 Charles Street

Boston 8 February 1888

Dear Mr. Lewis

I have taken a membership in the General Theological Library for the Church — and I hope that you will long read the books which you may have, as I imagine almost at your own free will. Revd Mr. Farnham* the Secretary, promised

[*Page 2*]

to write and send you the [circulars *?*] & details at once. I wish that it involved you in no expense, but as you can have four books at a time the expressage will not really amount to much and that is all you need consider — When you happen to be in town there is a very pleasant reading room at 23

[*Page 3*]

Mount Vernon St where the library is — but I dont doubt that you will speedily know much more about the matter than I can tell you!

— I wish that you would make a record of the membership on the Church account (!) and say that I took the membership in memory of Dr. T. H. Jewett* — and if you will speak to Mr. Plumer and Mr. Ridley* about it — then we will read our books

[*Page 4*]

and consider our duties done; the formalities being recognized!

With kindest remembrances to Mrs. Lewis and the household — believe me, with constant regard,

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

General Theological Library... Rev^d^ Mr. Farnham: Luther Farnham (1816-1897), a Congregational minister, held a number of positions during his career. He was founder and librarian of the General Theological Library of Boston (1861-1897). See *The Native Ministry of New Hampshire*, pp. 147-8.

*Dr. T. H. Jewet*t: Jewett's father. Key to Correspondents

Mr. Plumer and Mr. Ridley: In *The Placenames of South Berwick*, Wendy Pirsig tells of the Plumer family, who operated the local bakery and owned other property in South Berwick (p. 74). Several members of the Plumer family are buried in the Portland Street Cemetery in South Berwick; among them is Rev. Alexander Roberts Plumer (1827-1898). Rev. Plumer almost certainly is not the Mr. Plumer named here, as he served as a foreign missionary in the Congregational Church and resided away from South Berwick most of his adult life, but it is likely Jewett refers to one of his local relatives.

Mr. Ridley is probably Deacon Madison Ridley (1830-1908).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 3 Folder 163. Accompanying this manuscript is an envelope addressed to Reverend Lewis in South Berwick, ME, canceled on 3 February 1888.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

2nd Mo 9 1888*

My dear Friend

I am delighted to hear such a favorable report from thee by Sarah's nice letter.* Sitting by the peat fire listening to Lowell's* reading of his own verses! A convalescent princess with her minstrel in attendance. There may be a question as to the curative properties of Dr. Lowells dose, but that its flavor was

[*Page 2*]

agreeable I have no doubt. My own experience of the poetry-cure was not satisfactory. Some years ago when I was slowly getting up ^from^ illness, an honest friend of mine, an orthodox minister, in the very kindness of his heart, thought to help me on by administering a poem in five cantos illustrating the five points of Calvinism. I could only take a homeopathic dose of it. Its unmistakable

[*Page 3*]

flavor of brimstone disagreed with my stomach, probably because I was a Quaker.

I am still suffering from sleeplessness. Sarah recommends what the old folks used to call "milk toddy." I am trying to substitute milk for the Chinese herb. My tea-kettle is a cow. I tried for two or three days to follow Sarah's prescription which seems to have been borrowed from "Kubla Khan."

> "Close his eyes
> For he has fed on honey-dew
> and drunk the milk of paradise."*

[*Page 4*]

It did not prove very effective, probably because I had only old Santa Cruz rum* for "honey dew" ~~and~~ and a Jersey cow's for the "milk of Paradise."

I hope thee will soon be well enough to look over the two big books which to me were extremely interesting.

With a great deal of love to thee and Sarah I am thy grateful friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

1888: Penciled at the top of page one: "14." An "X" is penciled at the beginning of the first paragraph.

nice letter: See Jewett to Whittier of 4 February.

Lowell's: American poet, James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), "Turner's Old Téméraire," *Atlantic Monthly*, LXI (April 1888), 482-483. Key to Correspondents.

paradise: "Kubla Khan," by the English poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), ends:

> Weave a circle round him thrice,
> And close your eyes with holy dread,
> For he on honeydew hath fed,
> And drunk the milk of Paradise.

Santa Cruz rum: John B. Pickard transcribes this as Santa Croix rum, but to me it seems to read "Santa Cruz." The difference may be of minimal importance, as both terms refer to the same rum, made in the Virgin Islands.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4782. This letter has been transcribed previously by John B. Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edmund Clarence Stedman

148 Charles Street

Boston 10 February 1888

Dear Mr. Stedman

I think you heartily for your most kind and friendly letter. I have delayed and delayed answering it because I wished to look over my stories carefully and make sure of getting the very best bit of work I have done — But Mrs. Fields's* illness (and more

[*Page 2*]

particularly her getting wellness!) took so much of my time and thought that I cannot arrive at any hour or two ^that^ I am willing to spend over the works of this minor author —

However! — for a short story I am tempted to let you read Miss Tempy's Watchers which is already in print for

[*Page 3*]

the March *Atlantic*.* Mr. Aldrich is good enough to like it very much, and it would be convenient as to its length. I like An Autumn Holiday* in the volume called Country By-ways, (and that is short too) — An Only Son* is as good work, I believe, as I have ever done — and you will find that in The Mate of the Daylight. I should like to choose some

[*Page 4*]

pages from A Marsh Island* perhaps beginning at the top of page 184 and going to the end of the chapter — or a page or two following 134 — And in A Country Doctor* a page or two beginning at page 21 or at 260 or 322 or from the chapter called At Dr. Leslie's —

Pardon this hurried letter: indeed there is much more that I wish to say —

but believe me yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Miss Tempy's Watchers: Jewett's story appeared in *Atlantic* in March 1888. This letter concerns Stedman's plan to include Jewett in his multi-volume collection, *A Library of American Literature from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*. Volume 10 appeared in 1889. It finally included a photograph of Jewett (after p. 514) and two of her pieces: "Miss Tempy's Watchers" and the poem, "A Child's Grave" (pp. 510-18).

Mrs Fields: Annie Adams Fields. She was so ill in early 1888 that Jewett accompanied her to Florida to recuperate.

An Autumn Holiday: Jewett's short story first appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in October 1880. She included it in her volume, *Country By-Ways* in 1881.

An Only Son: Jewett's short story first appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in November 1883. She included it in her volume, *The Mate of the Daylight* in 1883.

A Marsh Island: Jewett's novel appeared in 1885.

A Country Doctor: Jewett's novel appeared in 1884.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Rives Lassiter

Sunday afternoon

[About 19 February 1888]*

Dear Mr. Lassiter

I am sure that you have heard of Mrs. Fields's severe illness, and [*deletion*] sure also that you will be glad to know that she is getting better [now *? corrected*] though it is such a piteously slow way as yet. This morning in one of our brief talks she whispered about having sent [you *corrected*] word of a mending woman who could look

[*Page 2*]

after your buttons — and that the note, (which also said that she hoped you could come in to dinner that night) was left with the maid at 84 who told the messenger that you should have it presently as you had not left your room — I think that Mrs. Fields

[*Page 3*]

feels a most affectionate interest and care over you and hopes that nothing has happened when she does not hear about you for a little while! There was a word more of this message:

Oh — [would *corrected*] you please put the Coleorton* book into your pocket some day when you are walking by — for another reader?

—— I hope that the

[*Page 4*]

"great show"* is getting on well so far? I wish that you could get more bits into the papers{.} There's nothing like making people remember a show —

I have not seen the statues yet: indeed I have hardly left the house in the time since I came back from the country & found Mrs. Fields so ill — I am looking forward ^to seeing them^ with great pleasure.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1888: Jewett wrote this letter not long before she accompanied Annie Fields, who had been very ill with pneumonia, on a slow trip south to St. Augustine, FL. While it is not certain the letter is from 19 February, it should be from the last two weeks of February.

Wikipedia says that after Lassiter completed his law degree in 1886, he set up practice in Boston, remaining there a short time, before returning to his home town of Petersburg, VA, where he practiced law, beginning in the spring of 1888.

At the time of this letter, it appears that Lassiter may have rented a room at 84 Charles St., but this has not been established.

Coleroton: *Memorials of Coleorton Being Letters from Coleridge, Wordsworth and his sister, Southey, and Sir Walter Scott, to Sir George and Lady Beaumont of Coleorton, Leicestershire, 1803-1834*. 2 vols., edited by William Knight. (Edinburgh, 1887). While these volumes appeared in 1887, they were not reviewed in *Atlantic* until February 1888. This suggests that this letter could have been composed in 1888, presumably near the time when Fields's health improved enough to allow her to travel south for further convalescence.

"great show": It appears the young lawyer was involved in some kind of show involving statues, but details have not yet been discovered.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Rubinstein Library, Lassiter Family Papers, Duke University. Box 53.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Willis Boyd Allen

148 Charles St.

23 February 1888 *

Dear Mr. Allen

I find your kind note and the March number of the Cottage Hearth on my return to town yesterday. I thank both you and the author for the personal sketch which is written in such thoughtful and kindly spirit. Some-

[*Page 2*]

times one is inclined to misquote Wordsworth* and say "Alas the praises of men"! instead of "Alas, the gratitude —" Please do not forget to thank "John Kent for me" ———

— I have not forgotten that formerly I half promised the Cottage Hearth a sketch — and it happens that just now I have

[*Page 3*]

an uncommonly short one nearly done which seems to me the sort of thing that you could use — The name is New Neighbours* and the price would ordinarily be $100. but I do not know what you would think about that. It will be somewhere just over 5000 words. Please let me know by Saturday if you would care to

[*Page 4*]

print it for otherwise I must hurry it off elsewhere. If I do not hear from you I shall understand that you cannot now make room for an unexpected bit of work.

With best wishes for the continued success of your magazine

Believe me

Yours truly

Sarah Orne Jewett

Notes

1888: Scott Stoddart uncovered a problem with dating this letter, that Jewett's "New Neighbors" definitely appeared in October 1888, but Allen's *The Boyhood of John Kent* seems not to have seen print until 1891. However, Kathrine Aydelott probably has solved this problem by locating the *Cottage Hearth* article to which Jewett refers: John Kent, "For the Hearth — 'Sarah Orne Jewett'." *Cottage Hearth* (Boston, MA) 14 (Mar 1888), 74-75. Jewett's request to thank "John Kent," using quotation marks, suggests that she may have known that Mr. Allen sometimes published under that name.

Wordsworth: Stoddart identified Jewett's reference as Wordsworth's "Simon Lee, the Old Huntsman." "Alas! the gratitude of men / Hath oftener left me mourning."

New Neighbors: Stoddart notes: "New Neighbors" appeared in the *Washington Post* (28 October, 1888, Section 14, p. 2), and was reprinted by Katherine C. Aydelott in *American Literary Realism* (Spring 2004, v. 36, pp. 256-268).

The manuscript of this letter is in the collection of the Miller Library of Colby College, Waterville, ME. A transcription appears in Scott Frederick Stoddart's Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett.* New transcription and notes (1988).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Sunday

[*26 February 1888*]*

Dear Peg

I grab a minute by the hair of its head to tell you that the address is the Laurel House Lakewood New Jersey,* and you must write the New Jersey in full. I suppose there are other Lakewoods. Sister always liked the story of the jealous woman who was mad because her husband began a letter Dearest Maria and said Then the monster has other dear marias! I stepped to church this morning and left all my packing until now but friends have been sitting with me and I am now in haste. Dear Marigold and Mrs. Whitman have been here and who should appear to see Mrs. Fields but poor little Dr. Holmes,* so affectionate and talking as hard as he could so he wouldn't cry, and they had a great talk upstairs by the fire, while Mrs. Whitman and I sat below, and had a call to ourselves when he came down. He was so funny about clearing out his house because Amelia* the daughter is coming to live with him. Mrs. Whitman said "You might just as well try to clear up your front yard if your front yard was the beach with everything coming ashore!" — I heard a wonderful great sermon from Mr. Brooks* this morning and coming out I saw Ella Walworth* and had a bit of gossip with her in the church porch. She said that she had a beautiful journey south, but poor Emma Caruth is just alive which seemed to sadden her a good deal. "Bill Bacon" is now talking Charities with A. F.* and I am so distracted that I must close so good by with love to Aunt Mary* a genuine message because I love her twenty times more than I do most folks so there now, and am as proud as a peacock of her into the bargain, and always was, so no more at present from

S. O. J.

Notes

A transcriber's note with this text reads: [to Mary].

26 February 1888: Almost certainly this letter was composed on this date, which fell on a Sunday in 1888.

The year is confirmed by the implication that Oliver Wendell Holmes's (Sr.) daughter, Amelia Jackson, is moving into his house after the death of his wife, Amelia Lee, in February 1888. As daughter Amelia died in 1889, this letter has to come from before that date, and probably, soon after the loss of Mrs. Holmes. Presumably, it also comes before the death of Emma Carruth on 31 May of 1888.

26 February was the Sunday just before Jewett and Annie Fields departed for Florida, hoping that Fields would recover there from a serious illness.

That they are still in Boston is confirmed by their having attended a sermon by Phillips Brooks at Trinity Church.

Peg: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Laurel House Lakewood New Jersey: An 1865 resort hotel in Lakewood, New Jersey, where many prominent people of the period stayed, including Oliver Wendell Holmes and Rudyard Kipling.

Dear Marigold ... Mrs. Whitman ... Mrs. Fields ... Dr. Holmes: Marigold is Mary Greenwood Lodge. Sarah Wyman Whitman, Annie Adams Fields, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

Amelia: Amelia Jackson Holmes (1843–1889) was the only daughter of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., and Amelia Lee Jackson. Key to Correspondents. Mrs. Holmes died on February 6, 1888.

Mr. Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Ella Walworth Little: Key to Correspondents.

Emma Caruth is just alive: It seems likely this is Emma Carruth (1849-31 May 1888), despite the difference in spelling. Emma Carruth was Assistant Treasurer (1873-1882) and then Treasurer of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Congregational Church (1882-1888). Her sister, Ellen (1848-1923, followed her as treasurer (1888-1896).

"Bill Bacon" is now talking Charities with A. F. : Not surprisingly, there were several prominent Americans named "William Bacon" in the latter part of the 19th century, including the Massachusetts State Senator John William Bacon (1818-1888). A likely identity for the person with whom Annie Adams Fields (see Key to Correspondents) would confer about "Charities" is the William Bacon who served on the board of directors of the Unitarian charity, the "Children's Mission to the children of the Destitute" for many years.

Aunt Mary: Mary Olivia Gilman Long. Key to Correspondents.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Folder 74, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Thursday

[*1 March 1888*]

Thursday

Dear Mary

Heat is nothing thought of in Longacres* but that's no matter. I have been looking over Mere Pochette* with mingled sorrow and anger. I don't know what got into Mr. Alden* not to send me the proof. It seems to hurry so at the very end and I could have set it right in such a few little minutes — still there are lots of things in it that I didn't know I knew and I am sure it will remind you as it does me of our lark in those strange countries.*

S. O. J.

Notes

This transcription begins and ends with lines of hyphens, suggestioning that the transcription is incomplete, even though this seems to be a whole letter.

Longacres: On Thursday 1 March, Jewett wrote to Houghton Mifflin from Lakewood, NJ.

Before 1904, according to Wikipedia, Times Square was named Longacre Square. And there was at one time a Longacre Hotel in Manhattan, but whether it was open in 1888 is not certain.

It is possible that Jewett writes from New York City at the beginning of her trip to Florida with Annie Fields, which began near the end of February, 1888.

Mere Pochette: Jewett's "Mère Pochette" was originally published in *Harper's Magazine* (76:588-597), in March 1888

Mr. Alden: Henry Mills Alden. Key to Correspondents.

those strange countries: In *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Paula Blanchard says that Mary and Sarah Jewett traveled in Canada, mainly Quebec, in the fall of 1884 (p. 161).

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Folder 74, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Maria Bray

1 March 1888.

Dear Mrs. Bray:

The scene of "A Marsh Island"* is somewhere within the borders of the town of Essex but even I have never succeeded in finding the exact place! Choate Island suggested the island itself, but I never went there until a year

[*Page 2*]

ago — long after the story was finished — It was seeing it in the distance or perhaps earlier still noticing an "island farm" near Rowley* from a car window on the Eastern railroad, that gave me my first hint of the book.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Marsh Island: Jewett's *A Marsh Island* appeared in 1885.

Rowley: Richard Cary notes:

> The area of Massachusetts which Miss Jewett here invokes is the coastal stretch between Newburyport and Manchester in the county of Essex, a region of creeks, channels, and salt marshes much traveled and thoroughly familiar to her; the trains of the Boston & Maine Railroad (Eastern Division) ran along this route. The marsh island in her novel is situated in "Sussex" County, not far from the town of "Sussex," similarly marked by tidewater inlets and unreclaimed marshland.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Fales Library & Special Collections, New York University, MSS001, Meynell, Alice Christiana Thompson (1847-1922) : Correspondence: A - Z, Box 97: Folder 14. It was previously transcribed and annotated by Richard Cary in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Co.

[*1 March 1888*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co —

Gentlemen

I meant to go to the Park Street office to talk [a/little *corrected*] about my books but I did not get time before I left town and now must do the next best thing of writing instead. Do not you think, in the first place, that it would be well to bring out a* paper edition of A Marsh

[*Page 2*]

Island* this summer at fifty or still better, twenty-five cents? And in the second place I have magazine stories enough for a new volume which Mr. Whittier* suggests ~~ought~~ should have the name of The King of Folly Island,* that being one of the stories. I have a longish new one unprinted which I am willing to put in by way

[*Page 3*]

of 'new material' — and I can have everything ready at any date you give me. I hope that in case you think it wise to bring out the book Mrs. Whitman* may design its cover. I suppose that the first of June will be early enough for it to come out, but there is no reason on my part why it should not be sooner. All that

[*Page 4*]

I most gladly leave in your hands — I shall hope to hear from you here within a few days —

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Laurel House*

Lakewood New Jersey, March 1st

Notes

1 March 1888: In the upper right corner of page 1, underlined in blue ink and in another hand: "S. O. Jewett". In the upper left corner is a Houghton, Mifflin date stamp reading 2 March 1888. At the bottom of the page four appears in a different hand the penciled initials "F.J.G." for Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

a: Jewett has extended the tail of this letter, making it look more like the way she sometimes writes "and," but it seems clear she means "a."

A Marsh Island: Jewett's novel of 1885. By 1901, Houghton Mifflin was selling a 50 cent paperback edition of *A Marsh Island*, according to their catalogue, p. 75.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

The King of Folly Island: Jewett's story collection appeared in 1888. The unpublished long story Jewett included in this collection was "A Village Shop." Reviews of the volume seem to have begun appearing in August 1888. However, in a letter of 10 June, Jewett requested to see notices collected by Houghton, suggesting that the book was, indeed, out by June 1.

Mrs. Whitman: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

Laurel House: An 1865 resort hotel in Lakewood, New Jersey, where many prominent people of the period stayed, including Oliver Wendell Holmes and Rudyard Kipling.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Celia Thaxter

Danvers

Mar 2 1888

My dear Friend

I think thee must still be in Boston, and so write there. I have had rather a hard winter, bur now find myself better. I am so glad that it is spring —— by the almanac. I was very anxious about Mrs Fields,* & my old school mate Mrs Pitman* of Somerville. But, the Lord

[*Page 2*]

be thanked both are recovering. I hear thy readings much [commended *?*]. I am sure thy verses come "[mended *?*] from thy tongue".* It always seem to me that when thee used to read them they [*deletion*] sounded a great deal better than I thought them before.

I am reading the proofs of a new Edition* of my poems, with notes &c. I wish there

[*Page 3*]

were less of them.

I have had letters from all the world this winter, and I have been quite unable even to read them, until lately I have been over-hauling the great man.*

I wanted thee to have the "Phantasms of the Living" {.}* I am sure the volumes will be [found *?*] deeply interesting. Keep them as long as thee pleases. Has thee seen the new book on "Reincarnation"?* I have just got it, but have

[*Page 4*]

glanced at it.

I must try, Providence permitting, to go to the "Shoals" the coming summer. God bless thee my dear friend of many years!

Ever aff. thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Pitman: Whittier's friend and correspondent, Harriet Minot Pitman, died in October 1888. His obituary of her appears in J. B. Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 3, p. 552.

tongue: The transcription of "mended" is uncertain. If it is correct, Whittier may be quoting from *Poems on Several Occasions* (1807) by the little known poet, A. M. Roe. His poem "Addressed to a Friend" includes this stanza:

To quell oppression's lawless force,

Right those who suffer wrong;
To check fell sin "May truths divine
Come mended from thy tongue."

Or perhaps Whittier quotes from Roe's probable source, Henry Headley's "An Elegy on the Death of the Late Rev. John Lawson":

These were thy arts — and glowing with the theme,
Whilst truths divine came mended from thy tongue, ... (302)

Headley (1765-1788) was a British poet and critic.

Or, perhaps he alludes to British poet Edmund Waller's (1606-1687) "To the Memory of Oldham": "And Ovid's love flow'd mended from thy tongue" (xxi).

new Edition: It seems likely that Whittier is working on his collected works, issued by Houghton Mifflin under various titles in 1888.

great man: This transcription is uncertain, as is Whittier's meaning.

"Phantasms of the Living": A two volume collection of documents of alleged sightings of apparitions, published by members of the British Society for Psychical Research in 1886.

"Reincarnation": In 1888, the most recent book in English on the doctrine that individual souls are reincarnated though multiple lives over time was *Reincarnation: A Study of Forgotten Truth* (1888) by E. D. Walker, published in Boston by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. MS Am 1211, Box 1, Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892. A.L.s. to [Celia (Laighton) Thaxter]; Danvers, 2 Mar 1888.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mrs. Colburn

Lakewood New Jersey

3 March 1888

Dear Madam

I have been prevented from sending an earlier answer to your note ~~by illness~~ — There was a sketch of my early surroundings &c in a late number of *The Cottage Hearth** which will give you what you are seeking for I think.

[*Page 2*]

I think it was the February number. With best wishes for your club I am

Very sincerely yours

S. O. Jewett.

To

Mrs. Colburn.*

Notes

Cottage Hearth: See John Kent. "For the Hearth — 'Sarah Orne Jewett'." *Cottage Hearth* (Boston, MA) 14 (Mar 1888), 74-75.

Mrs. Colburn: Mrs. Colburn and her club remain unidentified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Miss Holloway*

Lakewood New Jersey

Laurel House March 3 [*1888*]

Dear Mifs Holloway

I do not know what Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.* will say about the use of a story in other editions than their own, but if they do not object I am quite willing to let you choose a story for your proposed book —. You do not say how large your "twenty pages" are — but one of the

[*Page 2*]

shorter sketches or perhaps one so long as An Only Son* would not take up too much space — if that is too long I would suggest An Autumn Holiday* —

Believe me

Yours very truly

S. O. Jewett.

Notes

Holloway: This person has not been identified, nor is it known whether the project under discussion came to fruition. However, a possible candidate is Laura C. Holloway (Langford), who compiled an 1889 collection, *The Woman's Story: as told by Twenty American Women*. Jewett is *not* included in this volume, but many of her friends and contemporaries are. Holloway (1843-1930) was a prolific author and editor.

Houghton Mifflin: Jewett's publisher.

An Only Son: Jewett's story appeared first in *Atlantic Monthly* (52:664-678), November 1883.

An Autumn Holiday: Jewett's story appeared first in *Harper's Magazine* (61:683-691), October 1880.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

St. Augustine

Monday

[*March 4, 1888*]*

Dear O. P.

Well, I didn't know there was such a place as this in America! All the way down through the north of Florida and from Jacksonville here I had a sense of disappointment because the country seemed hardly more southern than North Carolina, except for the little palmettos on the ground, for it was flat and covered with pine woods.* But when you get into this old town there are all the

[*Page 2*]

queer things you see in Southern Italy or Spain it seems to me— strange flowers and loads of roses and kinds of palm trees leaning over walls and the people are so many of them of Spanish descent that it keeps up the outlandish feeling.* And somebody very rich of the Standard Oil Company has fallen in love with the place and built the shops and other buildings in old Spanish style and — as for

[*Page 3*]

the Ponce de Leon it is simply beautiful.* You must come next year and stay there. Mother would have such a time! There is so much to see and the sea wind is cool though the sun is so hot. They have picked all the sweet oranges long ago but the bitter ones are left on the trees and look just as well! Tomorrow this hotel is going to shut up so we are going to move over to the Ponce de Leon.* They

[*Page 4*]

say that this is much better kept in some ways, but I should like to be there to look about at my leisure. The Lorings had friends ~~the~~ here. You don't know what good times we had together. Katherine Loring* is such a nice girl and has lived abroad a good deal and got so much out of it and is a born traveller so that we have been much the gainers. She has made the plans and we have taken the good of them. They live up at Pride's Crossing near [n *written over* b *?*] Mrs

[*Page 5*]

Cabots* and I knew her but it was before she went off the last time about two or three years ago. You wouldn't care much about Jacksonville — it might be a town anywhere except for the orange trees. We were in a first rate hotel the little time we stayed, but here there is really something to see and enjoy. The streets are as narrow as can be for driving and the Spanish balconies poke out overhead so you

[*Page 6*]

can walk along in the shade of them.* I have been dreadfully afraid of having Mrs. Fields go up the rivers or indeed to stay long here for it is really wilting hot now and too hot to have come for any length of time, but we are going to take one day's journey to where we can see the pink birds fly about.* Florence Cushing* is here & knows K. L. also, and we have pleasing times. I am so sorry to miss a letter to you but I was out gadding all the early part of the day until the ^last^ mail was gone. I sigh

[*Up the left side of p. 6*]

and sigh for Caddy. Oh Caddy such joys and even [grimed *?*] hens a squawking is no more from Sister

[*Up the left side of p. 1*]

We haven't been to the old Spanish fort* yet but are going tomorrow or perhaps early this evening.

Notes

through the north of Florida...: Henry Flagler (1830-1913), a partner in Standard Oil, invested heavily in the transformation of St. Augustine. FL. He quickly developed his hotels in St. Augustine and the railways that would bring northerners to them. However, the work was not quite completed in the spring of 1888, when Jewett and Fields first visited. For that visit, Jewett and Fields could travel by sleeper car from New York to Jacksonville. There they would ferry across the St. John's River, and then take another quite uncomfortable train to St. Augustine. See Thomas Graham, *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine,* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014.

of Spanish descent: While the Minorcan community of St. Augustine was significant in 1888, they did not form a majority of the local population. At this early point in Jewett's acquaintance with St. Augustine, she had not yet absorbed the knowledge of the town she would gather before publishing her main story set there, "Jim's Little Woman" (1890). See *Jim's Little Woman*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press (2023).

the Ponce de Leon: As she writes this letter, Jewett has not yet stayed at the Ponce de Leon hotel, and she has not yet learned very much about Henry Flagler, a partner in Standard Oil, who was investing so heavily in the transformation of St. Augustine.

Katherine Loring: Katharine Peabody Loring, Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Cabot: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

the pink birds fly about: While one might assume these pink birds would be flamingos, in fact flamingos rarely are seen in Florida, especially in north Florida. More likely, Jewett and Fields are expecting to see Roseate Spoonbills.

the Spanish balconies: Bronsontours.com provides an architectural history of St. Augustine. Spanish home architecture in the city featured second-story balconies to provide shade and to shelter lower windows and doors from rain and wind.

Florence Cushing: Florence Cushing (1853-1927). This biographical note appears with the description of her papers at the Vassar College libraries:

> Born in 1853 outside Boston, MA, Florence Cushing was the daughter of an esteemed family known as “The family of judges” for their participation in legal affairs. Florence Cushing was the valedictorian of her Vassar class of 1874 and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She was among the founders of the Girls’ Latin School of Boston as well as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, which became the American Association of University Women, an organization of which she was the second president (1883-1885). She was the first alumna to sit on the Board of Trustees, and served between 1887-1894 and 1906-1912. In 1913, she was elected to life membership on the Board, a position which she held until 1923, when she became 'trustee emerita.' For her exemplary work and devotion to Vassar, Cushing Hall [now Cushing House], built in 1923, was named after her. She died at home in Norwell, MA on 20 September 1927.

Spanish fort: Fort Marion at the north end of Bay Street, now a national monument, the Castillo San Marcos.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 94 letters to Mary Rice Jewett; 1888-1900 & [n.d.] (Nos. 92-94 incomplete). Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (121).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Ponce de Leon,

St. Augustine — Monday

[*March 11, 1888*]

Dear O. P.

Here we are I am thankful to say, so comfortable in this beautiful place with a big room and a little room out of it, looking out into the great Spanish court of the hotel with a big fountain and gardens and palmetto trees, and through the big arched and cloistered walk into the street. Really it is a perfect palace of a place and though we were told again that it's [*meaning* its] beauty was all it had and the table was n't good we never half

[*Page 2*]

believed it, and had as good a dinner and breakfast as "Youngs"* could give and who need ask more? It costs but when you feel as if you had your money's worth it gives you quite a different feeling!* Mrs. Fields got here pretty well on the whole though she is very weak poor thing and I know she longs to be at home. I feel as if this were the right place for her for a few days at any rate since she isn't able to start [st *over other letters*] on the home journey, and being so amused and pleased with the hotel that it helps along a good deal. You feel as if you

[*Page 3*]

2

were living in a [bran *instead of* brand] new palace and every way you look you see something really artist-like and charming. For instance the [*deleted word*] china is real china of the most lovely pattern of gold on white in little figures and such pretty shapes — so refined, as if a lady had picked ^it^ out, and the carpets are so full and handsome* — You will perfectly delight in it and if I don't have some of my family spending their little all in St. Augustine the latter part of next winter it will be because I can't prod 'em!!! Mrs. Fields has said

[*Page 4*]

over and over that Mother must come, and how it would please Mary. We will start Caddy with Pretty Peggy* and "her folks" and come as a whole.

— I was afraid after I wrote yesterday that I spoke as if I thought you had been impatient about my being gone so long, but I didn't mean it that way. I feel the worse because you have been so good about it when I know you want me. I would have been home long ago if I had started for mere pleasure. And it has seemed to me some days as if I

[*Page 5*]

were pulled almost in two! I think it all depends upon the next few weeks or months whether Mrs. Fields ever gets strong again. She seems to pull up a certain distance and then something pulls her back, and if she got a bad cold it would go very hard with her. There is said to be a very good doctor* here and I am going to get her to have him come today and be sure she is on the right track ~~about~~ after this upset. There goes the band — oh

how I hope this same one will be here next winter!*

Ever so much love from

Sarah.

Notes

"Youngs": Young's Hotel (1860—1927) in Boston, MA would have been familiar to the Jewett sisters. *Wikipedia* says:

> A travel guidebook described Young's in 1895: "The main entrance to this hotel is on Court Avenue, and the hotel extends to Court Square and Court Street. It is one of the largest and best of the hotels on the European plan. One of the features of this hotel is the ladies' dining-room, the entrance to which is on the Court Street side. This is a handsomely decorated room 100 feet long and 31 feet wide. It connects with other large dining-rooms, and a cafe for gentlemen on the ground floor. This hotel is a favorite place with New Yorkers. ... Recognized as among the best [hotel restaurants in the city] are those connected with Young's Hotel, the Parker House, and the Adams House. That of Young's Hotel is very extensive, occupying a large part of the ground floor of that establishment. It has dining-rooms for ladies and gentlemen, lunch rooms, and convenient lunch and oyster counters."

It costs: Thomas Graham in *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine* reports that charges, including meals, at the Ponce de Leon ranged from $5 to $25 / person / day, which compared well with other first-class hotels. In 1894, the nearby, less luxurious Cordova Hotel, also owned by Flagler, charged $3-$4 / person / day for a room and 3 meals.

real china ... carpets are so full and handsome: Thomas Graham in *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine* says that Clarence B. Knott was in charge of supplying the Flagler hotels in St. Augustine. He managed large warehouses in St. Augustine, ordered materials in bulk and distributed them to hotels as needed. These included everything from electrical parts to china, silver, linen and carpets. "Knott would obtain samples of goods from several companies to make sure they met Mr. Flagler's high quality standards, and then he would negotiate the lowest possible price with one supplier. For example, in 1903 Wanamakers of Philadelphia received the contract for all fabric materials, from table and bed linen to carpets and window draperies" (Chapter 17).

Mary ... Caddy ... Pretty Peggy: Though this letter is addressed to Jewett's sister, Mary, it seems clear that she is speaking to both of her sisters, Caddy or Carrie being the younger. The identity of Peggy is not known, unless Jewett refers to Mary's nickname of Peg or Old Peg.

very good doctor: This is likely Dr. Frank F. Smith, whom Jewett later recommends to Lilian Aldrich (see below).

the band: Thomas Graham says that the Ponce de Leon was one of the hotels that employed bands during the winter seasons of 1888 through 1890. During January - April period of 1888, Jewett could have heard two performances per day, morning and afternoon, of Maurice J. Joyce's Military Band, including a program of sacred music on Sunday morning (175). These performances took place in the loggia. Joyce's band was well known, especially in New York, where he and Thomas H. Joyce were prominent entertainers at Saratoga Springs and in New York City.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 94 letters to Mary Rice Jewett; 1888-1900 & [n.d.] (Nos. 92-94 incomplete). Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (121).

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier
Fragment

Aiken. South Carolina

March 15. 1888.

Dear friend: We fully appreciate the force of the terrible storm which has shut you in, because we can get no letters nor telegrams from home. Your letter however and the Joel Harris* book came riding down safely before the gale. They were indeed welcome. We have a good chance here to compare his dialect with the real thing!

[*Page 2*]

You will wonder at our enterprise in going so far away. It was quite a pull but we are well repaid. A friend of Senator Edmunds* was staying at the house they have taken in this place, and the rooms not being all full, we were invited to come and join their family life here. It was an opportunity too good to lose. For a few

[*Page 3*]

days we have had the excellent man with us but he has now returned to Washington and Mrs Edmunds and her daughter, Sarah* and I keep house together. An incident happened on his way North which was characteristic.

Frederick Douglass* and his daughter got into the train and came into the sleeping car. "No colored people allowed here; you must go out"! said the conductor. Mr. Douglas remonstrated and there was some confusion which aroused

[*Page 4*]

Mr. Edmunds' attention. He came forward, recognized Mr. [Douglas *so spelled*], compelled the conductor to admit him, and all went well. But how near it came to a catastrophe if this one good man had not been upon the cars. Mrs Edmunds and her daughter belong to the company of the Saints and it is a privilege to be here, especially as it is the best place in the world to get well in. The weather is like sunny October. Thank you too for the coffee{,} home paper and news of your better health. I am very well

[*Manuscript ends, unsigned*]

Notes

Joel Harris: American author and folklorist, Joel Chandler Harris (1848-1908), best remembered for his "Uncle Remus" stories, featuring African American folktales collected and adapted and told in Harris's construction of a slave dialect on a southern slave plantation. Wikipedia.

Senator Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828-1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont. In 1852 he married Susan Marsh (1831-1916); they had two daughters, Mary (1854-1936) and Julia (1861-1882). Find a Grave.

Sarah: Presumably this is Sarah Orne Jewett, as the Edmunds' daughters were Mary and Julia.

Douglass: African American author, statesman and reformer Frederick Douglass (1818-1895). His daughter was educator and activist, Rosetta Douglass-Sprague (1839-1906). Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Jackson Garrison

Aiken S. C. 20 March

[*1888*]*

Dear Mr. Garrison

Will you please send me here one of the Atlantic portraits of Mr. Whittier?* I want to give it to a school for coloured Children which interests Mrs. Fields* and me very much. I do not know the new portrait very well but I should like the best one.

[*Page 2*]

I saw a picture of your father hanging on the wall and so I thought that Mr. Whittier ought to be there too —

Mrs. Fields joins me in kindest regard; she is much better for coming South but hardly strong again even yet —

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1888: Other letters of this year indicate that Jewett and Fields were in Aiken, S.C. during March 1888.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents..

See Jewett to Garrison of 10 April, in which she thanks him for the picture of Whittier for Martha Schofiled (1839-1916), who was then associated with the Schofield Normal and Industrial School.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 4, Folder 159, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. Trafton's notes indicate the the manuscript is held by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Thursday Morn

[*Early spring 1888*]*

Those wishing to see a handsome sight should look at the pretty rose on a nice Bon Silene bush sitting on a travelling sisters [chest *?*] in the sun shine. The sun is lovely after yesterdays floods, but no works are going on over the way because everything is soaking wet — the roof I mean and so slippery that they thought they would give it a day to clear away and dry off in.

There is a great cleaning of furniture and you will be saying "I hope every thing won't be spoiled" I suppose, but I don't believe we need to be troubled for the things he has finished look well surely. I am mortified that I forgot to tell you that the Somersworth Co's meeting is set for Monday the 21st so I cannot tell yet what the result

[*Page 2*]

will be to our pockets. I heard indirectly though that they hadn't done a great deal these last six months, being a dull season. Don't you want some money before you come back?

I have some to spare I'm sure, after counting up things yesterday, so you needn't scrimp yourself, and you needn't send any housekeeping money this month either for I can get on without it. Caddy* was [pleasured *?*] with your letter and sent us the reading. I stepped up a few minutes before tea not having viewed her for two days time. It was awful slippery for the ice was covered with water. This morning I am going to try to get as

far as Woodwards* for a wedding gift for [Hairy *so it appears*] who was thrifty enough to step in for a call on Ma last week, after a season of letting her alone. Those Nasons* are [curus *so spelled*], no mistake, and Ma seems quite amused at

[*Page 3*]

it this time. I should like to bring you home to pass the day and get the views you might have on the doings here, but I shouldn't want you to stay long enough to get cricks, as you might in the weather to come. Anybody who can get free from a Maine Spring is lucky.

Do stay out doors all you can and have a good time so as to get back ^heart^ for the summer, and we will try to have a good time. I've got a pile of things planned out already.

I saw Rebecca* at the bank yesterday and she seemed in a most cheerful state of mind. Mr Walker* wrote me about a mortgage that he was afraid would be paid up, but I found it could not be for a year yet to my great satisfaction, for I didn't know what to do with the money. Mr Walker didnt say anything about coming home except that they hoped to have been here before this. I heard he had

[*Page 4*]

taken cold & then I heard that he had another bit of indigestion the other day [wh *?*] is keeping [them *?*] but I dont know [wh *?*] is true.

I must be off now and do my shopping for I dread the journey out because neither sleighing nor wheeling, but two of them are mentioned as being able to [have *?*] us. Ma sends her love always whether I say so or no —

Affly

M.R.J.

Notes

Early spring 1888: This date is probable, as Mary implies that Sarah is in a warm place where she can spend time outdoors. In the spring of 1888, Jewett spent several weeks with Annie Fields in Florida and South Carolina.

Caddy: Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Nasons: Presumably "Hairy" is a Nason, a South Berwick family. This person has not yet been identified.

Rebecca: Rebecca Young. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Walker: John Francis Walker (1844-1890) headed the South Berwick Savings Bank. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Hobbs (1848-1934). His mother was Susan Clark Walker (1815-1896).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908.

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*22 March 1888*]*

Aiken, Thursday

Dear O. P.

Such a howling windy day and everybody groaning over the cold but the thermometer is at 42 above which isnt so very bad. I suppose it is the effect of all the storms about us.* We had a good [*deleted word* drive *?*] ^walk^ this morning but didnt try to drive as we were out all day yesterday and ^today^ you ^would^ feel the wind so much in a gig! Yesterday afternoon we went over westward about half a dozen miles to a big cotton mill and went all over it. I havent been in one since I was small and it carried me back to the days of Joanna Buckley.* The

[*Page 2*]

people interested me very much. They were all "poor whites" as they call them here – ~~and~~ or would have been without this steady work. I saw the "doffers and spoolers"* poor little snips and a slow little boy about as big as Theodore up in a kind of big cage on the wall making bands – or big twisted cotton cords on a machine.* He looked as if he ought to be out playing instead of making bands at twenty cents a day. And they work twelve long hours. It was a beautiful bright day and we had pleasant hours of it and there are lots of flowers in bloom.* I would like to know what has become of my

[*Page 3*]

2

letters. I didn't have half I ought [after *written over a word*] the big storm, and now I didn't get one today. The Southern trains take their time it seems to me. Next week Thursday we mean to start from here and go to Charleston and perhaps to Beaufort but it all depends upon our getting north. The train's [*meaning* trains] north are crammed full now and we hardly know what plans to make as we want to stop here and there and the cars are all taken up by through passengers from Florida.* The Edmunds* want us to make them a little visit in Washington but that will

depend upon our being longer [82 *circled in the margin, in another hand*] on the train than we had planned

[*Page 4*]

for they dont leave until after we do, and of course dont want us until they have been at home a day or two. The snow storms make us shy about going North too soon, but we both want to stop in Washington for a couple nights or so. I send you two or three photographs* of the people here and be sure to show them to John and Hannah and Annie.* John will laugh at the stylish team. In one cotton field picture you can see just how the cotton looks growing, and in the other an occasion of pickers. Mrs. Fields sends particular love and affection and wishes you could share our pleasure. I wish I had more interesting facts, but there isnt much a-happening!

Love to all from Sister.

Notes

22 March 1888: As indicated in the notes below, Jewett writes after major snow storms in March 1888 disrupted travel and mail in New England.

storms all about us: The Great Blizzard of March 11-14, 1888 dropped up to 5 feet of snow in New England, leaving drifts as high as 50 feet, causing many deaths, halting trains and confining people to their homes, in some cases for as long as a week.

cotton mill ... Joanna Buckley: It is likely that Jewett visited William Gregg's Graniteville cotton mill, about 6 miles west of Aiken. Jewett was familiar with textile mills as a result of living in South Berwick, within easy walking distance of the mills across the Salmon Falls River in Rollinsford, NH.

No certain information about Joanna Buckley has been located. United States census records identify a Joanna Buckley working in a cotton mill in Lewiston, ME in 1880. It is possible that a Joanna Buckley worked for the Jewett family at an earlier date.

"doffers and spoolers": A doffer removes full spindles of thread from a spinning machine, replacing them with empty ones. A spooler is responsible for a machine that winds spun thread onto the spindles.

in a kind of big cage on the wall making bands: Twisting bands often was done by young boys in 19th-century cotton mills, either by hand or by machine.

Theodore, son of Carrie and Edwin (Ned) Eastman, was born August 4, 1879. At the writing of this letter, he would be 8 years old.

flowers in bloom: In this letter, Jewett appears to divide some paragraphs with long spaces between sentences. I have rendered these spaces to approximate hers, though it is not easy to be sure when she intends this.

through passengers from Florida: It appears that as early as March of 1888, the number of people wintering in Florida was large enough to fill the returning trains for several weeks.

the Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828-1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont. In 1852 he married Susan Marsh (1831-1916); they had two daughters, Mary (1854-1936) and Julia (1861-1882).

photographs: Images of these photographs appear at the beginning of this volume.

John and Hannah and Annie: These are Jewett family employees in South Berwick. John Tucker, who appears often in Jewett's nonfiction, was in charge of their stable and grounds (see Blanchard, pp. 37-8). Annie probably is Annie Collins.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University:Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 94 letters to Mary Rice Jewett; 1888-1900 & [n.d.] (Nos. 92-94 incomplete). Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (121).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Aiken, Friday 23 March

[*1888*]*

Dear Peg,

Then Olive moved nothing with her but the worktable!* Perhaps there was a picking up after her, but we can set down six good chairs to her account and feel she did well by us ~~on the balance~~ — How that old furniture went from one house to another in old times when there wasn't so much buying of new! Please don't let [Siden's / Siddie's*?*] little chair in the pantry be used for standing upon by Philander, Mary!* it wouldn't bear him perhaps. I try to picture to myself the roof a 'histing and I am that pleasured about Caddy's* mule

[*page 2*]

mule [*repeated word*] that I wish I could see it this minute driving by down this red and yellow road. — Yesterday was as crisp as October and the pea vines were nipped to the sorrow and astonishment of beholders — I have just got your Wednesday letter which skipped here amazing lively! A. Warren didn't send the jars herself but told me that an old gentleman ^was going to ^ send them whom I saw there last year + that some big ones were coming by the next Fayal packet.* She had an outburst of fear because she thought

she had told him North Berwick, but very likely Mr. Morgan didn't get what he wanted and waited — I grieve to have

[*page 3*]

stirred you up for nothing, but it was an innycent Sister to begin with.

We mean to do the next best thing to Florida and step as far as Savannah. What do you think of that? We mean to break the journey North and to be free of the Vestibule train,* and we are going to stay a day or two just to see Savannah where we can get pretty easily from here, and then come up to Beaufort and we have promised to make a little two days visit to Miss Laura Towne (Mr. Darrah's sister-in-law) just out of Beaufort on one of the Sea Islands.* Then we are coming up

[*page 4*]

to Charleston for a day and night and then up to Petersburg to spend a day with Mr. Lassiter,* his mother being dead and he having gone home to stay with his father and imploring us — Then we can go up to Washington and make our little visit. I think after Tuesday Morning you had better send one letter Wednesday to Sea Island Hotel, Beaufort, S.C. and ^also^ Thursday and Friday: and ^then^ Saturday to Charleston Hotel Charleston and after that I will tell you, but probably to Washington. Yes, next year you and Mother and I must come down and dally along home seeing the places. I should love it! Really it takes hardly longer to go right through in the vestibule train to Jacksonville ~~than~~ from New York than it does to go in ordinary trains from here. —— Yesterday we had

[*page 5*]

3

a nice day going to walk in the morning, and just as we came out of the woods we met Sally Norton from Cambridge, who is here with Mrs. William James and the Lorings whom ~~we I~~ I like so much especially Miss Katherine Loring* and we [loitered *?*] round a while together, and in the afternoon we took a long drive with Mary Edmunds* out into the country to a little pottery, and it was such a picture to see the old coloured man at his potter's wheel and a great fire blazing in the end of a long cabin and all the pots and jugs set about to dry. I must now close this letter with much love to all. I am glad to hear such good news about Will Collins tell Annie.* I

[*page 6*]

know it will make her feel happier to think he is at work again, and trying to do well. ———— ———

& gals. These violets are enclosed by Mrs. Fields with love to you and Mother. I wish that the little pink ones would get there without [mizzling *?*] all up. We got them in the woods yesterday and they were so pretty. I will answer your sister Eastman's letter when I get blowed up ^to begin^ again like the minister, but she shall not want for peanuts.

Yours

Seddie

Notes

1888: This date appears here probably in another hand. As the notes below indicate, it is correct.

Olive: This may be Olive Raynes, operator of and teacher in the popular South Berwick private elementary school that Jewett attended. Or, more likely, Olive Grant, the Jewett sisters' dressmaker. See Blanchard, *Sarah Orne Jewett*, pp. 20-21, 37, 55.

Philander: Given that a roof seems to need repair or perhaps rebuilding, it is possible that Jewett is speaking of Philander Hartwell Fall (1833-1915).

This note appears in an entry on "Capt. Isaac P. Fall (1830-1909), Civil War veteran, mason," at the Old Berwick Historical Society:

> "Historian Marie Donahue wrote in *The Old Academy on the Hill*, her history of Berwick Academy, that the academy schoolhouse preceding Fogg Memorial was built in 1853 by a contractor named Ebenezer Fall. Another member of the family, Philander H. Fall (1833-1915), is listed as a building contractor in the *Maine Register* business directory of 1880."

Caddy: The youngest Jewett sister, Caroline Eastman, referred to at the end of the letter as "your sister Eastman."

A. Warren … Mr. Morgan: Warren is an old family name in the South Berwick area, but whether this person is connected with that family is not yet known. See Gladys Hasty Carroll's *Dunnybrook* (1943) for an account of the family. Mr. Morgan also has not been identified.

Jewett may refer to another acquaintance. Alice Amelia Bartlett Warren (1843-1912) traveled often in Europe and moved in the same social circles as Fields and Jewett, being a friend of Henry James and Ellen Emerson, among other Jewett correspondents. See the introduction to *Little Women Abroad: The Alcott Sisters' Letters from Europe, 1870-1871* (2008), edited by Daniel Shealy, pp. lxii-lxiii.

Fayal packet: Though this is not clear, it is possible Jewett refers to a packet boat that makes regular trips to a local port, such as Portsmouth or, more likely, Boston from the Portuguese Island of Faial.

vestibule train: The development in the 1880s of technology to allow rail passengers to move between cars by connecting and enclosing the

vestibules or ends of the cars made it practical to have a dining car and Pullman sleeper cars as part of a train, allowing easier long runs with fewer stops for overnight, intercity travel, such as from New York to Jacksonville, FL. In the earlier Thursday letter from Aiken, Jewett complains about how crowded the north-bound trains are. Changing their travel plans frees them from the difficulty of making stops on their journey north and being unable to board a later train in the same direction.

Aiken and locations Jewett plans to visit:

It appears that Jewett and Fields did not follow the itinerary she gives here, interposing a return trip to St. Augustine by boat.

Aiken, SC, near Augusta, GA, was a popular winter resort for New Englanders in the 19th century. Senator George Edmunds and his family were regular residents at the Winter Colony in Aiken. It appears the Jewett and Fields spent a good deal of their time with the Edmunds family, particularly daughter Mary. Presumably they stayed near the Edmunds, but it is not yet known which of the many hotels and guest houses they used.

Savannah, GA is a coastal town on the Savannah river near the South Carolina border. The historically significant city was a popular tourist destination in the 19th century. Savannah is about 120 miles from Aiken.

Beaufort, SC is a coastal town near the Sea Islands, where Jewett sets her story, "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation." With the notes to that story is extensive information about the town, the islands, and Laura Towne. Beaufort is about 40 miles northeast of Savannah.

Charleston, SC holds considerable historical interest because of its age, its centrality as a port in the antebellum South, and as the site of the opening battle of the American Civil War in 1860. It is about 70 miles northeast of Beaufort.

Petersburg, VA, near Richmond, could have held particular interest for Annie Fields, apart from Mr. Lassiter's invitation, because in the 1880s, while Republicans continued to dominate the Virginia legislature, institutions benefiting freedmen, such as Virginia State University, in Petersburg, were flourishing. The university's first president, John Mercer Langston, became the first African-American to represent Virginia in the United States Congress; elected in 1888, he served 1890-91. This would seem a natural stop after their visit with Laura Towne. Petersburg is about 400 miles north of Charleston. From Petersburg to the final stop Jewett mentions, Washington, DC, is about 130 miles north.

Mr. Lassiter: Francis Rives Lassiter. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Laura Towne (Mr. Darrah's sister-in-law): Blanchard in *Sarah Orne Jewett* says that Jewett and Fields visited "Annie's old friend Laura Towne (1825-1901), a homeopathic physician and educator who, many years earlier, had established a clinic and school on the island for its large population of freed slaves" (193-4).

Laura Towne's sister, Ann Sophia (1819-1881), married Robert Kendall Darrah of Boston. She became a noted American painter. Robert K. Darrah (1818-1885), according to *Memorial Biographies of the New England Historical Society*, was a Boston merchant who became appraiser at the Custom House in 1861 (p. 211). Annie Fields wrote an obituary piece on Mr. Darrah in 1886.

Sally Norton from Cambridge: Sara Norton. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. William James: The American philosopher and psychologist, William James (1842-1910), married Alice Howe Gibbens (1849-1922) in 1878. For information about the impressive Mrs. James, see *Alice in Jamesland: The Story of Alice Howe Gibbens James* by Susan E. Gunter (Nebraska 2009).

the Lorings … Miss Katherine Loring: Key to Correspondents.

Mary Edmunds: Daughter of Senator George F. Edmunds. See note on Aiken above.

the old coloured man at his potter's wheel: The Aiken area was part of what became known as the Edgefield district for making pottery. An important local enslaved African-American potter, Dave Drake (ca. 1801-1870s) probably predates Jewett's visit. However, according to Brenda Baratto of the Aiken County Historical Museum of South Carolina, the date of Dave the Potter's death has not be established. The fact that Mary Edmunds, who had some familiarity with the area, led Jewett and Fields on a long carriage ride to visit a specific African American potter suggests that this particular potter was widely known and believed to be worth visiting. Dave — or perhaps members of his family still making pottery — presumably would be at or near the Pottersville site where Dave began his career, which was roughly 24 miles from the Winter Colony area of Aiken. They might easily have visited other potters nearer to Aiken's Winter Colony. While it now seems unlikely that Jewett actually met Dave the Potter, perhaps she did.

Will Collins tell Annie: See Annie Collins in key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 94 letters to Mary Rice Jewett; 1888-1900 & [n.d.], Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (121).

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Palm Sunday

[*25 March 1888*]*

The tender majesty of this high day is with me still, dear friend (though the hour has slipped past which sets its limit in time —) and I love to write to you in the shadow of its associations. — Mr. Brooks* preached quite a wonderful sermon this morning; taking man as his own Jerusalem, receiving every-

[*Page 2*]

thing as coming from God & and greeting it with Hosanna. A "hard doctrine": but hard as everything worth having is hard, either in getting or holding or loving. ——

— [Naturally *?*] all the familiar elements are here — Coolidge* has come — with ready cheer, & my little Ella* from the Bible Class is to arrive in the morning — but below, there is a sharp [remembrance *?*] of the message brought from Paris, & my dear Lizzy Booth* lying still & dead. It is all so strange — so deep — & so significant. This, & all that has wrung one's heart while [*unrecognized word*] Brooks has had so much to suffer, seems [touched in/it/if *?*] a year since{.} I felt the warmth that your dear letter brought: [warmth *?*] & comfort — and fea-

[*Page 3*]

tures which I [*unrecognized word*] to have painted with my own brush. I cant tell you how the landscape made me feel: what [surges *?*] of desire — what a tenderness of [*unrecognized word*] & prospect! — Do you know how closely you understand what is ~~the~~ in my [*unrecognized word*] of longing? which was [is *?*] the [heart *?*] of my hopes? It gives me a feeling I cannot quite express — but I

[*Page 4*]

know that it is sweet, and I bless you for it — & tell you [*unrecognized word*] about it every day. —

I have been working somewhat ardently this last fortnight: and now comes a clearing of the studio decks which makes me feel as if my brood had found their wings. Almost everything is done: (as much as that can happen in my incom-

[*Page 5*]

petence —) Goldilocks* hangs in [Gold *?*] Mary's parlour. Exhibitions claim their prey: and even the [altar=piece *so written*] is rolled in a tight box, is on its way to Worcester on a trial trip. I repair [thirteen *?*] this week, to face the situation: and I shall report whether I survive [this sight *?*] — when this is over & my deductions made, & the picture at 77* again. I shall let it rest awhile, & attack the problems of St Andrews, which thicken as things go on, with much memorial work to be thought out - [& *?*] etc —

Meantime all these works and ways are helped by your tidings — it is so good to know that the dear friend thrives in the soft air, and that presently even we with our [*unrecognized word*] will not have too

[*Page 6*]

vigorous an environment. Alice Warren* says that she liked the looks of your party; & I [*deletion*] ^hope her^ artists remorseless eye is to be trusted! She will be here on the 3rd, as will that ample companion, Miss Loring:* and together they will go to [Waterbury *?*] where [Mr. *?*] Warren precedes them.

Dear, I have only begun to [speak *?*] with you: yet for my shame I pause & ask one little word, sometime, at your hand: or one little thought at your heart. And O do come

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

home in time for the tea-party on the 19th [*two unrecognized words*]! I am your SW

Notes

1888: Though the letter is not dated, it was assigned this date in *Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman* (1907), which was Palm Sunday in 1888, and that is confirmed by Whitman's noting the recent death of Elizabeth Booth. At this time, Jewett and Fields were in South Carolina. See notes below.

See also, "To Mrs. Bigelow Lawrence" of 8 June 1888, in which Whitman writes: "At this little Chapel of St. Andrew's there is a chance to give so many people pleasure; for some who would not dream of having a memorial window on the ordinary terms can arrange with me for having it come as part of the decoration ... and so I hope it will make some of the people who worship a little happier" (*Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman*, pp. 28-9).

In this letter, Whitman's handwriting is challenging. I have guessed at many more words than are indicated in my editorial notes.

Mr. Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Coolidge: Sarah Chauncey Woolsey. Key to Correspondents.

Ella: This person has not yet been identified.

Lizzy Booth: Probably American painter Elizabeth Booth (1846 - 22 March 1888), who died in Paris.

Goldilocks: This would seem to be a painting, but it has not yet been identified, nor has the person to whom it was delivered. Likewise, the altarpiece

Whitman mentions remains unidentified. Whitman refers to the classic fairy-tale, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."

77: Whitman's home address, 77 Mount Vernon Street.

Alice Warren: Alice Amelia Bartlett Warren (1843-1912) traveled often in Europe and moved in the same social circles as Fields and Jewett, being a friend of Henry James and Ellen Emerson, among other Jewett correspondents. See the introduction to *Little Women Abroad: The Alcott Sisters' Letters from Europe, 1870-1871* (2008), edited by Daniel Shealy, pp. lxii-lxiii. Find a Grave.

Miss Loring: The two Loring sisters were Katharine and Louisa, who became Jewett correspondents. Katharine probably was in St. Augustine, FL, at this time, but it appears in 1888 letters from their father, that Louisa was in Massachusetts. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 5, Item 234. Part of this letter appears in *Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman*, Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

[1888 *in upper left corner, in another hand*]

Aiken SC 29 March [*1888*]

My Dear Loulie,

I have begun on the wrong side of my little sheet of paper which is quite discouraging, but I am going to send you a note in a hurry at last since it has been so long in starting! Our coming to Aiken has been most successful for we have found old and new friends, and the weather has been almost always delightful so that

[*Page 2*]

2

we have played out of doors to our heart's content ^It is lilac time now! — ^ . Mrs. Fields has gained very fast, but she does not get her whole strength back yet: I can see that she is tired more easily than usual and being so long in bed has taken her usual fleetness of foot away from her for the time being, so that she is much provoked at not taking such long walks as she likes — But I think that time is doing wonders, and she has lost the terribly pale look that worried me so when we came away. The storms and

[*Page 3*]*

the late spring will keep us south longer than we like but I am very anxious not to leave this region too soon. I hope indeed that we shall see you and dear Mrs. Dresel before you sail. How pleasant all the plans sound for the summer and what good wishes I send you for their carrying out! I am as interested about the [duck *?*] as possible: you must tell me all about [his *corrected*] share of the journeys — — Somehow I find it hard to write in Aiken but there are so many things I should

[*Page 4*]

like to tell you — There ought to be a second Millet* for this Southern country — to paint the coloured people at work in the cotton fields and their cabins and the peach bloom that was like little pink clouds everywhere when we first came. You would like the great Southern pines so much with "spills" nearly two feet long !!! We have driven a great deal and seen the country about here pretty thoroughly.

Tomorrow we go to Charleston for the night on our way to Beaufort where we are going to spend the next week and make a little visit to Miss Laura Towne* in the course of it. Here are some wild violets which I delight in — crowfoots they call them. If it

[*Up the left margin and then down the top margin of page 1*]

were not so wet you should have some other flowers — I am so sorry about not seeing your sketches, but "some other ship — some other day" — to quote the Kate Greenaway* [booksy *?*]{.} A. F. sends much love and so do I to you and "Martina." *

Yours faithfully

S. O. J.

Notes

Page 3: a blotted line appears in the top center of the page, extending 4 lines down, which may be the impression made by a violet to which Jewett refers on p. 4.

a second Millet: Jean-François Millet (1814 -1875) "was a French painter and one of the founders of the Barbizon school in rural France."

Miss Laura Towne: Laura Matilda Towne (1825-1901) was one of the first northern women to move to the South to serve freedmen during the American Civil War.

Kate Greenaway: Catherine "Kate" Greenaway (1846-1901), British children's verse writer and illustrator. Her first books of illustrated poems was *Under the Window* (1878), in which appeared, "I Saw a Ship."

"Martina": Jewett may have written "Martine." This person's identity remains unknown.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters, Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Sea Island Hotel* Beaufort, Saturday 31 April

[*Probably 31 March 1888*]*

Dear O. P.

Sister has come to the prettiest place now that ever was! The hotel is a great big old-fashioned Planter's house looking out on the lovely bay and Sea Islands beyond — all the land very low like the tropics, but fig trees and magnolias and live oaks and all the trees as green as grass and yesterday we picked great boughs of

[*Up the left side of page 1*]

There is a monkey show* under the window!

[*Added sideways in the top margin of page 1*]

Sister is now seen how rice grows!*

[*Page 2*]

Cherokee roses* and in the Charleston gardens roses were all blooming ^in full bloom^ on arbors and seemed to be as big as grapevines or else stood up tall like lilacs and things. I was delighted with Charleston — you have no idea what a foreign sort of place it is — The ~~French~~ Huguenots came there didn't they?* and you are always seeing lovely iron work gates as you

[*Page 3*]

do abroad ^and so many touches of French taste^. You take [*deleted letter*] in for the first time how rich and splendid things were before the war and now you can not conceive the piteous desolation, for some of the best houses on the Battery (a sort of bank on the harbor side) are so shattered by the earthquake* that the owners have gone away and left them to drop to pieces{.} The walls are cracked and crumbling

[*Page 4*]

— the chimneys are gone and the cornices all awry and ready to fall where they have not fallen already.* I've done for honors and saw everything we could think of or that the nice colored driver could think of. Of course one might spend a great deal of time in such a place and I look forward to seeing it again. As Sunday was coming and the best train for Beaufort was a morning one we started off and here we

[*Page 5*]

are. Mrs. Fields doesn't seem nearly so tired as she did yesterday. The sea air is lovely and so soft. I am not sure now just what we shall do or where we shall do it! we must wait to hear from Miss Towne before we go over to the Island. You see we have just got here and it is but a little after one o'clock. Katharine Loring and [and *written over a letter*] her father who are perfectly charming people

[*Page 6*]

to go anywhere with are going to Florida from Savannah next week — not by rail but by sea, down an "inside" channel to Jacksonville among the Georgia Sea Islands, if they can arrange it, and if they do we have half a mind to go too, in which case we perhaps can go to Savannah from here by boat which would save cars. We should only stay a few days for it is getting hot but it would give us a lovely summer like look at St. Augustine. Don't be too sure, for I am not, whether it will come right to do it, but I thought I would tell the plan.* I

[*Up the left side of page 5*]

keep thinking how you and Mother will enjoy Charleston. Love to all from Sarah. Tell Caddy not to let yellow [onions *?*] grow on her pelter.*

Notes

Sea Island Hotel: The Sea Island Hotel in Beaufort, SC, was a plantation house before the Civil War (1861-65). It was for a number of years the home of John Allan Stuart, editor of the Charleston *Mercury*.

31 April: This is an impossible date. Given Jewett's location, she almost certainly meant 31 March, which fell on a Saturday in 1888.

monkey show: Possibly Jewett refers to an example of the fairly common small "dog and pony shows" that typically included monkeys. Henry B. McKay offers this description in *Do You Remember When?*;

> This was during the years from 1900 to 1906. They seemed like huge affairs to me then, but when I look at the lots today, they must have been comparatively small shows. The ponies were all small, of the Shetland or Indian type ponies. They were well trained and could race in singles or in groups hitched to small chariots. They were made to jump and dance and perform in every way except talk, and perhaps a little of that.
>
> The dogs were many and varied. They were very intelligent and also well trained. Each would come out when called by name and would go back to his little stool when his act was finished. They would jump over hurdles, through hoops onto a pony, or on each other's backs. They would walk a ladder, a tight rope, a pole at the command of the trainer. The act that always caused the most excitement was to

see a little fox terrier climb a ladder into the top of the tent and jump off into a net only a few feet above the ground. The oh's and ah's as it was climbing, the stillness when it got ready to jump, and the sighs of relief when it safely landed in the net are real today!

In addition, to add the necessary spice to the show there were always a few monkeys. They were dressed in clothes, some as old men and women and some as babies. They pushed wheelbarrows, baby carriages, jumped on and off dogs and ponies, and did the many things that always amuse grown folks, as well as the children. The climax of the monkey show was when a paper house was placed in middle of the arena and set afire. Bells rang, horns tooted, and firemen came out, who were monkeys pulling a little red fire engine.

There was a hand pump of the old-fashion fire engine variety and they pumped water and actually put the fire out.

The show was held in a tent and there was another smaller tent behind for the animals. They usually stayed there for a week. The charge was only twenty-five cents. It could easily be walked to, from our part of town.

how rice grows: Wikipedia says of St. Helena Island: "The area was noted to be similar to the rice growing region of West Africa and soon captured slaves were brought to the Sea Islands, mostly from what is today Sierra Leone. Rice, indigo, cotton and spices were grown by these slaves, as well as Native Americans, and indentured servants from Europe. The mix of cultures, somewhat isolated from the mainland, produced the Gullah culture."

tell the plan: Though documentation so far is sparse, it appears that Jewett and Fields accepted the Lorings' invitation, for Jewett and Caleb Loring write later letters from St. Augustine.

Cherokee roses: Of the genus *rosa*, this is the species *laevigata*. This climbing evergreen rose produces long, thorny, vine-like canes that sprawl across adjacent shrubs and other supports. The pure white single flowers appear in spring and are densely arranged along the length of the canes. The plant can reach 10 to 12 feet in height and 15 or more feet wide. (Source: www.floridata.com)

Charleston ... Huguenots: Wikipedia confirms that among the earliest settlers in Charleston were Huguenots: "The French Huguenot Church of Charleston, which remains independent, is the oldest continuously active Huguenot congregation in the United States."

the war ... the earthquake: Jewett refers to the American Civil War, 1861-1865. The effects of this war on southern landscapes receive attention in two Jewett stories, "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation" (August 1888) and "A War Debt" (January 1895).

Wikipedia says:

The Charleston Earthquake ... occurred at 9:50 p.m. on August 31, 1886, and lasted just under a minute. The earthquake caused severe damage in Charleston, South Carolina, damaging 2,000 buildings and causing $6 million worth in damages, while in the whole city the buildings were only valued at approximately $24 million. Between 60 and 110 lives were lost. Some of the damage is still seen today.

Major damage occurred as far away as Tybee Island, Georgia (over 60 miles away) and structural damage was reported several hundred miles from Charleston (including central Alabama, central Ohio, eastern Kentucky, southern Virginia, and western West Virginia). It was felt as far away as Boston to the North, Chicago and Milwaukee to the Northwest, as far West as New Orleans, as far South as Cuba, and as far East as Bermuda.

not to let yellow onions grow on her pelter: This passage is so obscure that I doubt that I have correctly read Jewett's handwriting.

Mary Rice and Sarah Orne Jewett usually use the word to indicate a horse. This apparently local usage is not reflected precisely in English dictionaries. The *Oxford English Dictionary* offers a definition that seems somewhat appropriate here: an old, feeble or inferior horse. However, here and elsewhere Jewett seems to use it to refer to horses in general. See for example Chapter 20 of *A Marsh Island* (1885), where a character describes a horse rider as "peltin' along," which in that context implies maintaining a quick pace.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 94 letters to Mary Rice Jewett; 1888-1900 & [n.d.] (Nos. 92-94 incomplete). Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (121).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

St. Helena's Island Sunday

[*April 1, 1888*]

Dear O. P.

I feel as if I were at the end of the earth, but I only hope that all the other ends are as pleasant! We came across the long ferry in a rowboat this morning and then drove across Lady's Island ~~and~~ three miles, and across St. Helena's seven miles* before we came to the great clump of live oaks and the old plantation house* where Miss Towne and Miss Murray have lived

[*Page 2*]

for over twenty years.* They have done everything for the colored people in teaching them other things besides book learning or rather they have taught to find the application of book learning to every day life. You would be surprised to see how neat and nice their houses are — and they were all out working on the land this morning as we drove along and were so respectable looking and polite* — Miss Towne has a fortune which has

[*Page 3*]

helped her in many ways but nobody can tell how many sacrifices must be made when anybody starts out to do a thing like this and sticks to it — Miss Murray is an Englishwoman and they are such an interesting pair — and way off here they keep account of what is going on in the world and read and think about things as if they were in the middle of them, and perhaps more than we do. All the way

[*Page 4*]

along we have been seeing palms and palmettos and strange trees and flowers — and you have no idea what a difference there is in the size of the Sea Island cotton plants from those in Aiken. On some of these islands the cotton was worth $200 a pound (to put with silk) when the common cotton was only five cents.* I don't know where to tell you to write next until we settle about Florida but I think to Washington unless you hear the contrary. Just Care Senator Edmunds.*

Love to all from Sarah

Notes

seven miles: A map from Letters and Diary of Laura M. Towne (1895). For details about this trip and photographs, see *After the War: Two Stories* by Sarah Orne Jewett. Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2025.

old plantation house: The original building of the Penn Center was the Oaks Plantation house.

Miss Towne and Miss Murray: Laura Matilda Towne (1825-1901) was one of the first northern women to move to the South to serve freedmen during the American Civil War. According to the PBS web page, "Only a Teacher," "The teachers who went south sought not only to teach the freedmen how to read and write, but hoped to help them develop socially and morally. They saw themselves as missionaries who would 'bring the light of God's truth' to people they assumed were in need of such enlightenment." Born in Pittsburgh, PA, Towne and her family became interested in abolitionism when her father moved to Boston to superintend the city gas works. Their commitment deepened after her father retired to Philadelphia, where they joined First Unitarian Church, then under the leadership of the pacifist and abolitionist, William Henry Furness (1802-1896). Towne eventually trained as a physician and was in practice when she felt the call to St. Helena in 1862. She remained at Penn School until her death.

Ellen Murray (1834-1908), Towne's close friend, shared the work at Penn School from 1862 until her death, primarily as teacher and school administrator. In *South Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times* v. 2, Ronald E. Butchart's "Laura Towne and Ellen Murray" (pp. 12-30) says that Murray was born in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, and though her father died when she was 2, she and her two sisters were educated in Europe and eventually came to live in a substantial home in Newport, RI. There she became a teacher. Invited by Towne to help with the Penn School, Murray became an ardent abolitionist and advocate for African Americans. *Scholarly Editing* presents one of her poems from *The Anti-Slavery Standard* of 1864 and provides useful biographical notes on her.

Though both Towne and Murray came from privileged backgrounds and were well-educated, Butchart does not confirm that either was independently wealthy, as Jewett suggests here. He says how the partners became acquainted is unclear, though Towne at least once spoke before a Quaker meeting in Newport, RI. Though Murray was a Quaker, her family were prominent members of the Anglican Trinity Church, Saint John, New Brunswick, founded by Loyalists after the American Revolution; see *History of Trinity Church, Saint John, New Brunswick, 1791-1891* by Frederick Hervey John Brigstocke, pp. 123-4.

working on the land: Jewett elaborates this description of freedmen farming on St. Helena in "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation" (1888).

Sea Island cotton plants: Sea Island cotton was of a special long-stranded variety, making it particularly valuable. After the Union gained control of the islands, it was eager to continue cotton production during the American Civil War.

Senator Edmunds: Of the stop in Aiken, Blanchard says, "… they ran into the distinguished abolitionist Senator George Edmunds of Vermont, who was vacationing there with his family, and the two parties joined forces for a few days." Jewett's letter indicates that their meeting was planned rather than fortuitous, as Blanchard suggests. See notes above for more on this family.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 94 letters to Mary Rice Jewett; 1888-1900 & [n.d.]. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (121).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

4th Mo 7 1888*

My beloved friend

Thy letter from the Jersey Pine Barrens* was very welcome. I am glad thee and dear Sarah* are out of Boston at this [*unrecognized word, possibly* time *?*]. The weather is intensely cold and there is a March bitterness in it which is very trying.

I am thankful that I am much better than when I wrote the last. I wish, however, I was

[*Page 2*]

with you or at some place farther towards the sun. Why do you not go to the nice winter Hotel at Hampton, Va? and if you cant venture [easily *?*] out of doors walk under the glass shallow verandas? It is much warmer there, and you would gladden the heart of dear General Armstrong,* who says he is always better for seeing thee.

I read with great satisfaction thy "Shelf of Books"* and

[*Page 3*]

Sarah's [chancery *?*] story.* She seems just as much at home among the Canadian French as among the New England farmer.

I enclose a [slip *?*] which will show thee that I am again provided with [a 'city lot' *?*]{.} I shall be very "land poor" if this thing goes on.*

With love to our dear child Sarah, I am with grateful love thy old friend

John G Whittier

Notes

1888: A Huntington Library archivist has read Whittier's date as 6th month, and he may well have written a 6, but the hand is not at all clear. That he writes to Fields in New Jersey and speaks of the cold weather in Boston makes it more likely that he wrote in early April, when Fields and Jewett were returning slowly from their winter 1888 Florida trip.

Jersey Pine Barrens: A large forested area in southern New Jersey, characterized by poor soil and unusual vegetation.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

General Armstrong: Whittier maintained an interest in the Hampton Institute, founded in 1861 to educate former African American slaves, now known as Hampton University. The first principal of the school was General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Key to Correspondents.

"Shelf of Books": Fields's "A Shelf of Old Books: Leigh Hunt," appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*, March 1888.

story: Whittier refers to Jewett's "Mère Pochette," in *Harper's Magazine,* March 1888. Though he seems to call it a "chancery" story, this transcription is uncertain and the label seems not to be relevant.

goes on: Whittier's reference in this paragraph is not yet known. Presumably, this has something to do with his two homes, a winter home with his cousins at Oak Knoll in Danvers, MA, from which he writes this letter, and a summer home in Amesbury, MA.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4848.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Rev. George Bainton

Ponce de Leon Hotel

St. Augustine Florida 10 April 88

My dear Sir

Your most kind note gives me real pleasure and I am very sorry that I have none of my books at hand and so cannot send you a written page from one of them as I would like to do — I am very pleased because you like my New England stories. I often remember with amusement

[*Page 2*]

what Mr. Henry James said of Thoreau* " — not provincial but parochial —" [*deleted letters*] that says the stories themselves in one word! Yet every village is a miniature world; how one is always finding this true — and I have hardly begun to tell the stories of my Berwick yet —

Believe me with high regard

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

To

Rev^d^ George Bainton

Coventry

[*Page 3*]

Have you a good signature of Mr. Whittier's*? His surely should be in your collection and I can promise you one from among those I keep —

Notes

Henry James said of Thoreau: Jewett's reference proves complex upon examination. In his controversial book, *Hawthorne* (1879), Chapter 4, American author Henry James (1843-1916) says of Thoreau: "Whatever question there may be of

his talent, there can be none, I think, of his genius. It was a slim and crooked one; but it was eminently personal. He was imperfect, unfinished, inartistic; he was worse than provincial he was parochial; it is only at his best that he is readable."

Whittier's: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Jackson Garrison

10 April — Florida

[*1888*]*

Dear Mr. Garrison

I have extended my journey but I expect to be in Washington on Monday ^next^ and if the proofs are ready I will look them over there. I shall be in Charles Street* the end of the week, and I will see you then. As soon as I get nearer to Boston I will send the rest of

[*Page 2*]

the copy, but I do not want to run the risk of its being lost, by trusting it to the uncertainties of small expresses — as I have only one copy of the story —

Mr Alden* offered to waive the usual [six *corrected*] months delay with another story lately printed in Harper's so if your matter runs short I should like to put Mére Pochette

[*Page 3*]

in — It was not printed right by a mistake & some ^pages^ were left out, but I have the manuscript and I think it is worth ~~keeping~~ ^printing^ in its right order —

Thank you for the picture of Mr. Whittier which seemed to give Miss Schofield* great pleasure —

In haste

Yours sincerely,

S. O. Jewett.

[*Page 4*]

Please direct to me care of Senator Edmunds *

Washington, D.C.

but there will only be time to send proof until Saturday afternoon the 14th ———

Notes

1888: Jewett's topic is the proof for her story collection, *The King of Folly Island* (1888). See notes below.

In the upper left of page 1 in blue ink and another hand is Sarah O. Jewett.

Penciled on the bottom left of page 3 are initials, probably F.J.G, for Francis Jackson Garrison.

Charles Street: The Boston address of correspondent Annie Adams Fields, at 148 Charles Street. Key to Correspondents.

Mére Pochette: This story appeared in *Harper's* in March 1888 and was collected in *The King of Folly Island* the same year.

Mr. Alden: Henry Mills Alden (1836-1919) was editor of *Harper's Magazine* for fifty years — from 1869 until 1919. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Whittier ... Miss Schofield: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Martha Schofield (1839-1916) was the founding superintendent in 1866 of the Schofield Normal and Industrial School for African Americans in Aiken, SC. Wikipedia.

Senator Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828-1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont. In 1852 he married Susan Marsh (1831-1916); they had two daughters, Mary (1854-1936) and Julia (1861-1882).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. Houghton Mifflin Company. Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Rives Lassiter

Palatka Florida

13 April [1888]*

Dear Mr. Lassiter

Mrs. Fields and I hoped to be in Petersburg tomorrow but I am sorry to say that she has been ill for a day or two and so we must wait here until she is strong enough

[*Page 2*]

for the long journey —

It makes me very anxious for she has never recovered her strength after last winters illness, though she has seemed much better of late and I thought the journey was sure to do her good — It

[*Page 3*]

is no return of the lung [trouble *corrected*] however —

With best regards and hoping to see you soon I am always

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1888: This letter was composed during Jewett and Fields's first journey south together, undertaken to help Fields convalesce from pneumonia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Rubinstein Library, Lassiter Family Papers, Duke University. Box 21.

Caleb William Loring to Louisa Putnam Loring*

St. Augustine

April 17, 1888

Dearest Louisa,

Thank you for your pleasant notes. I suppose Katharine has written to you much that I shall say: how different Florida is from So. Carolina; —* here all the fields are green with grass; the green here [*unrecognized word*: lasting*?*] keep that growing, though underneath it is as sandy as around Aiken. The Pride of China trees* are in ~~all~~ in full blossom, a very pretty blue blossom with quite a delicious scent.

[*Page 2*]

This is a curious old Spanish town* with its large fort & the Old City gate & its narrow streets; though on those streets the Yankee wooden houses crowd the old coquina stone ones & take the place of the old gardens. And the great sight is the Ponce de Leon hotel & the Alcazar & the Squares & gardens & fountains; & in the evening the ~~electric~~ colored lights. There is no hotel approaching it that I ever saw & I saunter around day & evening in admiration.

[*Page 3*]

Josh Blake & his [Cara? Cass?]* & her family have been very attentive; she has a nice house right on the sea wall: just rebuilt after the old fire.* There are quite a number of little attractions, [views & scenes *?*]. I saw some stuffed rattle-snakes,* ~~close~~ killed close by, that perfectly astonished me by their size: much bigger than any black snake I ever saw north.

Our excursion to Silver Springs* was most delightful: think of a [ditch *?*] never [beginning *?*] at once some fifty feet or more wide & very deep right out of the ground: the water so clear you could see the smallest fish, fifty-feet down,

[*Page 4*]

swimming about. Then we saw an old orange grove with palms seventy feet high & all so shady & cool & [regularly *?*] over-grown with wild oranges & grape fruit &c.—

The blacks too are much more flourishing than around Aiken, better dressed with glass in their houses & not those old shuttered cabins.

Orange groves everywhere in the interior on the way to Silver Springs, most of them recently set out. but I shall have a good deal to tell when I get back. The case comes on this week or not at all.* I hope to get off Friday but don't know.

With my very best love

Ever your affectionate father

C. W. Loring

Notes

Caleb William Loring to Louisa Putnam Loring: Key to Correspondents. where Louisa's sister, Katharine also is identified.

So. Carolina: As indicated in Jewett's letter of 22 March, she and Fields enjoyed the company of the Caleb and Katharine Loring family in Aiken, SC in late March. This letter indicates that Caleb and Katharine have returned to St. Augustine from Aiken at the same time that Jewett and Fields have done so, apparently during the first week in April. This suggests that they did indeed take the coastal cruise they had been thinking about in late March.

The Pride of China trees: It is not clear to which tree Loring refers. "Pride of China" apparently is the common name for several species. That he sees it in St. Augustine and specifies that it has blue blossoms in April makes it unlikely that he refers to trees commonly called Pride of China, such as Chinaberry.

old Spanish town ... large fort & the Old City gate ... old coquina stone ones ... the Ponce de Leon hotel & the Alcazar: For details about and images of these aspects of St. Augustine, see the notes on Jewett's story set in St. Augustine, "Jim's Little Woman" (1890) and Thomas Graham, *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine,* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014.

Josh Blake & his [Cara? Cass?]: These people have not been identified.

the old fire: Fires were relatively frequent in St. Augustine in the 19th century, and it is not clear, therefore, which fire is the "old" one. Recently in 1887, a fire had devastated much of the center of the town, leaving the cathedral, for example, as a shell.

some stuffed rattle-snakes: It is likely that Loring saw the snakes at the Vedder Museum. "Florida's Lost Tourist Attractions: The Vedder Museum" says of Mr. Vedder (1819-1899): "Dr. John

Vedder, his title as 'Doctor' stemming not from a University but the remnant of a short stint practicing as a self-taught dentist, was born in Schenectady, New York, on July 22, 1819. He seems to have been a bit of an adventurer, traveling and working at various times and places as a soldier, blacksmith, machinist, locomotive engineer, inventor, dentist, taxidermist, and, in his final occupation, museum and zoo curator.

> In his travels he had gathered a large collection of natural oddities and curiosities, including many animal specimens he stuffed and mounted himself. He turned them into a traveling display for a time and then, in the 1880's, opened a permanent museum in an old colonial era house on the corner of Bay and Treasury Streets in St. Augustine. A major part of his attraction was also an exhibit of live animals, including collections of snakes, birds, alligators, and some other native and exotic wildlife.

Silver Springs: Wikipedia says "Silver Springs is a U.S. unincorporated community and the site of aquatic springs in Marion County, Florida. The springs are one of the largest artesian spring formations in the world, producing nearly 550 million gallons of crystal-clear water daily. Silver Springs forms the headwaters of the Silver River, the largest tributary on the Ocklawaha River, a part of the St. Johns River system."

The case comes on this week or not at all: Caleb Loring, as a trustee under the will of Mary Wadsworth, filed a suit in June 1887 (Loring v. Carnes) that was not heard until November 1888. While Loring may be referring to another case altogether, this is a likely possibility.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Beverly MA Historical Society in the Loring Family Papers (1833-1943), MSS: #002, Series IV. Letters to Katharine Peabody Loring, and Louisa Putnam Loring, Box 1, Folder 15, Letters 1887-1916**.**

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Aldrich

Hotel Ponce de Leon St. Augustine

18 April 1888

Dear Lilian

When you and Mr. T.B.A. and Mr. Pierce* take another journey together don't go to Europe but start a little earlier than this and come down to [*deleted word*] a most beautiful hotel in as quaint a Minorcan town* as any in Minorca or Spain! As for the hotel, it is the most luxurious and refined and really charming place that I ever saw — I sighed when I heard about it in the winter, but when I saw it for myself I sighed no more! I am looking down on a moorish courtyard with a fountain

[P*age 2*]*

if you please and palm trees and roses and balconies with gardens of flowers hanging over their edges, and a tower that might belong to Venice showing over the tiled roof — You see I ought not to say Venice, but I have never been to Spain and don't know whether such a tower ought to grow there or not — But you put a mark in at St. Augustine in your guidebook and open it there next time.

You are wanting to hear about dear A.F. I know, and I am glad to say that she is better, for she had another illness lately which pulled her back a good deal and made me

[*Page 3*]

very anxious. I can see now that she gains every day but she will have to be very careful this summer — By the morning paper Mrs. J.T.F. and Miss Sarah Jewett the actress are reported! and they are having as good a time together as they can — Sadie is playing the player, you see and wonders if people who identify her think she is a likely looking star !!!! —*

We were so saddened yesterday by the news of Mr. Arnold's death* which seemed terribly sudden though I knew when I saw him a summer ago in Stockbridge* that he had angina pectoris — and I was

[*Page 4*]

sure that I never should see him again. Poor Mrs. Arnold and Nelly! I have an aching heart whenever I think of their sorrow — But it will be a great comfort to have the world acknowledge Mr. Arnold's genius. It is a thankless task for any man to be ahead of his time and people [*deleted word*] resent anybodys [suggestion *written over another word*] that they might think otherwise than they do, or that they might behave better, or live their lives for higher ends — I grew very fond of Mr. Arnold in those delightful weeks he gave us in Charles Street. I learned so much from him, and I can hear his voice now reading the Scholar Gypsy by the fire in

[*Page 5*]

the library. I was wondering just now if Miss Harriet Preston* still had the enthusiasm for him that she had years ago and was the first to teach me. I think then almost no one could have written about him as appreciatively as she could. I remember a review of his poems that she wrote once for the Atlantic that I must read again someday or other.

I can only say that his "Literature and Dogma{"} taught me as much or more than any [book *altered from* bod] I ever read of what one should

know of spiritual truth and right living and right mindedness.

I am so eager to see this new paper of his about America. I don't doubt that there is a great deal of needed truth in ~~that~~ ^it^, but in the Shelley paper he gave a sign of illness and weakness in the way he spoke - - - -

Now I am writing to you ^at last^ after thinking about you both many times, and I have so many things to say that I find it hard to stop.

About our Southern journeyings, I dont dare to begin, but I must take a long summer day and try to tell you some of the charming things that have happened. Our visit on one of the Sea Islands off Beaufort and some of the Aiken experiences.*

A. F. sends much love with mine to you and kindest remembrance of the grandmothers & the boys for I cant stop calling Tal and Charley by [*up the left side of page 4*] that name yet a while — Yours affectionately S. O. J.

[*Up the left side of page 5*]

We have planned our going home so many times that I am afraid to set another date for fear of another delay, but I think you will see us within a fortnight now{.} Of course we have to stop by the way.

[*In the left side and top margins of page 1*]

The Brownell poem* did not get to us in very good season but we read it with a wish to say how much we cared for it. If St. Augustine were a day nearer Boston it would be perfect.

Notes

Mr. Pierce: Henry Lillie Pierce (August 23, 1825 - December 17, 1896) became wealthy in the chocolate business and went on to become mayor of Boston and a congressman from Massachusetts. He became a very close friend of the Aldrich family, who often were guests aboard his yacht, the *Hermion*e. Among their cruises together was an 8-week trip among Caribbean islands in early 1896, which included Jewett and Annie Fields.

Minorcan town: St. Augustine numbered a significant population of Minorcan ancestry at the end of the 19th century, but Jewett seems to refer more directly to Henry Flagler's decision to build the Hotel Ponce de Leon in a Spanish style. See *Jim's Little Woman*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press (2023).

[*page 2*]: Jewett has numbered the folded sheets 2 and 3, but I have inserted a number for each page in the sequence.

likely looking star: According to Richard Cary in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters, "*Sara Jewett (1847-1899) was the leading lady of Augustin Daly's Union Square Theatre company. Miss Jewett of South Berwick recounts drolly that upon several occasions during her travels she was mistaken for Miss Jewett of New York, then considered one of the most beautiful women in America. In an ironic extension of the parallel, illness and enforced retirement became the lot of both thespian and literary Jewett. Sara Jewett's last appearance as an actress took place in the spring of 1883." See her obituary in Boston *Evening Transcript*.

J.T.F. is Mrs. James T. (Annie Adams) Fields.

Mr. Arnold's death: British poet and cultural critic, Matthew Arnold (24 December 1822 - 15 April 1888). Arnold visited America for the last time in 1886. His wife was Frances, his daughters were Eleanore and Lucy. He is the author of the poem, "The Scholar Gypsy" (1853) and of numerous prose works, including *Literature and Dogma* (1873). His essay on Shelley appears in *Essays in Criticism, Second Series* (1888). His *Civilization in the United States* appeared in 1888.

Stockbridge: Stockbridge, MA. In a 1932 Yale dissertation, Chilson H. Leonard presents chronologies of Arnold's visits to the United States. Of Arnold's 1886 American trip, Leonard writes: "He spent most of this visit in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he botanized fished, swam, and played with his infant granddaughter." Arnold's daughter, Lucy, and her family, friends of Annie Fields, had a summer home in Stockbridge.

Harriet Preston: Harriet Waters Preston (1836-1911) was a Massachusetts author and translator and a mutual acquaintance of Jewett and Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc (1840-1907). Jewett may refer to Preston's essay, "Matthew Arnold as a Poet," *Atlantic* 53 (May 1884) pp. 640-650.

Aiken experiences: See letters above for some account of Jewett's stays in Aiken, SC and St. Helena.

This letter, dated 18 April, indicates that Jewett and Fields traveled to Aiken after their first stay in St. Augustine and then accepted the offer to return to St. Augustine by boat with the Lorings. This letter was written during their second stay at the Ponce de Leon in the spring of 1888.

Tal and Charley: The Aldriches' twin sons, Talbot and Charles were born in 1868.

Brownell poem: It seems likely that one of the Aldriches has shared with Jewett and Fields Thomas Bailey Aldrich's sonnet, "Henry Howard Brownell," (1820-1872), which appeared in *Atlantic* 31 (May 1873) p. 609, not long after Civil War poet's death.

HENRY HOWARD BROWNELL.

THEY never crowned him, never knew his worth,

But let him go unlaureled to the grave.
Hereafter — yes! — are guerdons for the brave,
Roses for martyrs who wear thorns on earth,
Balms for bruised hearts that languish in the dearth
Of human love. So let the lilies wave
Above him, nameless. Little did he crave
Men's praises. Modestly, with kindly mirth,
Not sad nor bitter, he accepted fate,
Drank deep of life, knew books and hearts of men,
Cities and camps, and War's immortal woe;
Yet bore through all (such virtue in him sate
His spirit is not whiter now than then!)
A simple, loyal nature, pure as snow.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 119 letters to Thomas Bailey and Lillian (Woodman) Aldrich; [188-]-[1902]. Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1836-1907. Thomas Bailey Aldrich papers, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (2654-2772). Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Annie Adams Fields to Anna Loring Dresel?*

April 20th 1888.

St. Augustine, Florida

Dear friend:

The days are slipping away with sorrowful rapidity, when I remember that it means I am not to see you before you sail. But I have been kept back by lack of strength to take the journey northward with safety and my physician here still

[2]

prescribes a day or two of delay. Nevertheless I must add that in this beautiful place I am at last rapidly improving. Indeed I have reason to think I may return perfectly well. But meanwhile I think of you [and *?*] your going! and comfort myself with the [memory *?*] that change places as we may the same love waits for us and hearts we lean upon are unchanged.

[3]

St. Augustine is a new experience indeed. How I wish you could see it in these months of April and May when Florida is true to its lovely name and redolent with flowers of every kind. The Magnolia Grandiflora easily leads in the train.* I have never seen anything so truly queenly, so exquisite as this flower is in this its home. The odor is so delicate too that you hardly observe it in the room, and its pure beauty is something I

[4]

have scarcely been able to look upon with dry eyes.

A singular fortune has befallen this little half decayed Spanish town. One of the richest oil kings of this wonderful country of ours has taken a fancy to the place and has built a palace here for a hotel as huge and glorious as the Spanish palaces of old.* I should weary you if I tried to tell you of its [gardens *?*] and fountains, its campaniles domes and arcades, of the artists who have exhausted their taste and skill here, of the baths, like the Roman baths of old, — but sometime I hope you will all come to see it.

Meanwhile, dear friend, you will rejoice with me that our

[*Up the left margin of page 1 and then down the top margin*]

absence has been softened in this way — Sarah is quite well and sends her dear love with mine to you all. Come back dear Anna

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

to yours affectionately, Annie Fields.

Notes

Anna Loring Dresel: This letter's recipient has not been determined with certainty. Friends of Fields who might be addressed as Dear Anna, include Anna Dawes, Anna Loring Dresel, Anna Johnson, Anna Eliot Ticknor, and Anna Clarke (wife of James Freeman Clarke). A later letter of June 18 with a similar salutation — "My dear friend" — is believed to be addressed to a member of the Loring-Dresel family, since it is included among the Ellis Gray Loring Family papers at Harvard's Schlesinger Library. This suggests that Fields is addressing Anna Loring Dresel.

Magnolia grandiflora: Wikipedia says "*Magnolia grandiflora*, commonly known as the southern magnolia or bull bay, is a tree of the family *Magnoliaceae* native to the southeastern United States, from southern Virginia to central Florida, and west to East Texas and Oklahoma. Reaching 27.5 m (90 ft) in height, it is a large, striking evergreen tree with large, dark green leaves up to 20 cm (7.9 in) long and 12 cm (4.7 in) wide, and large, white, fragrant flowers up to 30 cm (12 in) in diameter."

richest oil kings: "Henry Morrison Flagler (January 2, 1830 - May 20, 1913) was an American industrialist and a founder of Standard Oil. He was also a key figure in the development of the Atlantic coast of Florida and founder of what became the Florida East Coast Railway." Fields and Jewett were staying at his newly opened Ponce de León Hotel in St. Augustine.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Milne Special Collections, University of New Hampshire Library, Durham, N.H.: Fields, Annie, Correspondence, 1882-1911, Special Collections MS 58.

From "Loose Letters" in the Papers of Annie Adams Fields

20 April, 1888

by Annie Adams Fields

Mr. Flagler* said it was a disappointment to find people leaving the hotel in April because this month and May are incomparably beautiful in Florida. Winter is all very well, but it is still winter here as every where. There is however a lovely sea breeze the moment the weather becomes warm which makes this coast comfortable{.}

He said the memory of his boyhood in the country with his torn hat and bare feet which he [warmed *?*] [*several deleted words*] on ~~winter~~ ^autumn^ mornings ~~at~~ ^in^ the places where the cattle had been [*deleted word possibly* sleeping] ^lying^ all night, or of the

[*Page 2*]

times when he sat on the door step with his piece of pumpkin pie in his hand, was the remembrance of a part of his life for which he was most grateful{.}

He said in building this hotel he was reminded of the story of a deacon of the congregational church in the country who had lived to old age and was always a model to the community{,} ^who^ was seen by the minister returning from market one day [*several deleted words*], whither he had gone to sell his small produce, as drunk as a lord. The friends pretended not to see each other but the following day the minister knew it was incumbent upon him to call upon the deacon. As he approached the place

[*Page 3, written on Hotel Ponce de Leon stationery*

using the left side of the page as the top.

The previous page almost certainly is on the other side of this page, also using a side as the top.]

he saw the deacon was at work in his garden and far from pretending not to see him he rose from among his cabbages and advanced towards the minister. When they came within speaking distance the deacon [spoke *written over a word, possibly* said] at once.

"Now don't say one word, here I'd been serving the Lord stiddy for fifty-five years and I thought I'd take a day off for myself" — Said Mr. Flagler, {"}so I took a day off and built this hotel!!"

A friend of his told him that he was reminded in seeing what he was doing of his own little son at school. He asked Eddy what they had been doing. O{,} said Eddy{,} each boy was told to bring five cents for the poor and drop it in the box reciting a text at the same time. So each boy in turn said "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and other passages ~~of~~ like [*deleted word*] ^that^ until they came to a bright eyed little Irish boy who when his went in said "A fool and his money are soon parted."

It is quite likely that Mr. Flagler is not yet fifty years old. He has a

[*Page 4*]

clear cut intelligent face but he is evidently laden with many cares and his wealth has not been an unmixed blessing. Altogether ^it^ was very interesting to see him in view of what he has done and is doing to make this spot of earth beautiful.

April 20th 1888

Notes

Mr. Flagler: Henry Flagler, a partner in Standard Oil, who, at this time, was investing heavily in the transformation of St. Augustine, FL, building hotels and a railroad to make the town accessible to tourists.

This manuscript is held by the Massachusetts Historical Society in Annie Fields papers, 1847-1912, MS. N-1221, "Loose Letters, 1852-1916." This transcription is from a microfilm, available courtesy of the University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence Kansas: Annie Adams Fields Papers 1852-1912. Folio PS 1669.F5 Z462 1986, Reel 3.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. Apr. 28th (88

My dear Annie:

I was so glad to have your letter which followed me about till it found me. I have much news (of my own affairs) to tell you. I have just returned from Boston & the Clifford,* where Karl* & I had to go to pack & send off all our earthly belongings, for our landlady gave up her flat & of course, we had to go too — I am so sorry to leave that dear peaceful place where we were so happy for 3 years — I knew not where to turn, it was all so sudden, nor what to do with our things till Oscar & Cedric said

[*Page 2*]

"store them in the loft at the De Normandie house", so I sent them to Portsmouth & there they are & I shall probably take some little place in Ports next winter & [live *corrected*] there & not [go *corrected*] back to Boston at all — One reason wh makes it easier to do this is that Roland &

Mabel are going to live in the city of New Haven — he has had a splendid position offered him as Micrologist at the State Agricultural Experiment station there — the salary is some thing fine & they are to go there the first of July. That means no vacation, never any vacation any more while they are there

[*Page 3*]

for all his work comes in the summer & this makes me ache to the marrow of my bones, he needs it so, he dwindles & fades for lack of fresh air & the Sea — But this is one of my crosses {—} I must bear the pathetic pain of it —

Another piece of news is that Karl's little place here burned down a week ago, with all his beautiful tools, his photographic paraphernalia, every thing, over a thousand dollars worth of things — that was hard! I had worked & toiled & moiled so many years to get all his things together for him, & was so happy this spring to think that at last he had all he needed & was content — I felt so safe & at ease about him! But that is not to be, I am so thankful no

[*Page 4*]

worse catastrophe happened — Fortunately the afternoon had been rainy & the wind that night was blowing from the S.W. away from the buildings, or every thing in the shape of a house would have burned to the ground — I shudder to think of it.

Dear I wish I could see the great Magnolia flower! Thank you for telling me & for your dear words. I shall miss my weekly evening with you next winter more than any thing —

We are so busy here! Would I had time to tell! I am working in my garden most all day, just now — You know there is nobody to help me — if I only get the beds dug & laid out, I do all the planting{,} transplanting, hoeing, weeding, watering, everything

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

myself & it takes much time & strength — Do write to me{.} This is only a word to take you & Pinny* my dear love!

Your C.

Notes

Clifford ... Karl: Karl is Thaxter's disabled adult son. During this period of her life, Thaxter and Karl wintered at the Clifford Hotel in Boston. See Rosamond Thaxter, *Sandpiper* (Randall 1963,1999), p 185.

Later in the letter, Thaxter mentions her brothers, Cedric and Oscar Laighton, and her youngest son, Roland and his wife, Mabel. Key to Correspondents.

Beginning in the winter following this letter, Thaxter and Karl resided with her bachelor brother, Oscar, at his De Normandie house in Portsmouth.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 5 (230-249).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

[*April 1888*]*

(hasn't a hoard somewhere for me. We haven't received some of the things we bought and there is much wondering. We particularly want some brass works from Enoch Robinson & some curtain stuff from Hovey's* &c — —) Poor Pin she is all flustered at getting notice from Houghton Mifflin & Co. that the last proofs of the book are sent and they want them right back tomorrow

[*Page 2*]

because the book is coming out a week from Saturday — and the ~~book~~ ^proof^ hasn't come in this mail! a poor flustered Pinny ^also^ thinking that they had left out Mère Pochette but now believes they haven't, and so will be sitting on the [postoffice *so it appears*] steps early tomorrow to [seize *corrected*] the round bundle — and read it and skip it back. They send me the check $100. for the Beaufort story* which is a pleasure. How interesting all these letters are ^of yours^{.} I will bring them back when I come

[*Manuscript breaks off. No signature*.]

Notes

April 1888: This date is confirmed by Jewett's expectation of the imminent publication of *The King of Folly Island* (1888).

Parenthesis marks in this letter were penciled by Fields.

Enoch Robinson ... Hovey's: Enoch Robinson & Company manufactured fine home hardware, such as doorknobs, locks, etc. Mr. Robinson also is remembered for building the "Round House" in Somerville, MA.

C. F. Hovey and Company was a dry goods store on Summer Street in Boston, from 1848 until well into the 20th Century.

Jewett and her sister, Mary, had moved into what is now known as the Sarah Orne Jewett House in South Berwick, after the death of their Uncle William Durham Jewett in 1887, and in 1888 were engaged in improving the house.

Pin: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mère Pochette: "Mère Pochette" was originally published in *Harper's Magazine* (76:588-597), in March 1888 and collected in *The King of Folly Island and Other People* (1888), published by Houghton, Mifflin.

Beaufort story: "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation," set in Beaufort, SC, was the lead piece in *Atlantic Monthly* (62:145-150) in August 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Tuesday morning

[*April/May 1888*]*

Dear Fuffatee

(The great town meeting day is dawning fair and soon the citizens will appear! —— I shall have a busy day doing nothing! but to go to the bank &c and see what I can of life! I do hope that your dear eye is all right again{.} I thought of Pond's Extract* [*deleted word, possibly* but] too late to tell you how good it would be.) I had such a delightful morning with thy friend* and the dear Cartlands

[*Page 2*]

(They were so affectionate and dear to me and I stayed there until a little after two and am the bearer of no end of messages — "Thee must give my love to Annie Fields" your friend Gertrude kept saying, and Gertrude & Joseph both were so hospitable and affectionate and as for thy friend! —) When I saw the dear man come in I thought he looked very old and poorly but presently he brightened up and was just as good as new laughing and joking and telling his stories and as full of larks as I ever saw

[*Page 3*]

him. You never saw such a perfect delight as they had in the coquina* you sent — neither had ever seen any before and they did so look at it and wonder over it, and I was so thankful to a thinkful Fuffatee for having sent it — I told ~~them~~ about the old Spanish women and the grass work and thy friend thought that was beautiful and made me tell [the *corrected*] Cartlands too (and they thought it was just like you to tend to the roofs as it was.) I think they must see a piece of the work some time. I would rather give

[*Page 4*]

them a little pink thing! lets talk about it! (Then I went to see Fanny Stone* and could hardly refuse when she begged me to stay all night. Her father had gone to Washington and they were alone — the two girls. Fanny seems better I think already and was very dear, and I have promised that late in May we will go and spend a night and have a picnic up the Artichoke river.)

Well, then I came home and found Mother alone as Mary* does not come until this morning{.} After tea I bestowed the ^ring^ [*deleted word*]

[*Page 5*]

and oh if you had seen the pleasure and delight! I never can tell you what a pleasure it was to me — and later in the evening she told me all about the wedding, and the coming down here. It was very touching — she has just come by and wants me to tell you how pleased she is with the ring & thinks it is beautiful ^&c (— I send you some letters. There are words for you in Laura's and Mrs. Rumseys* — I must go now, Fuff dear — you

[*Page 6*]

will see me back tomorrow but perhaps not until the afternoon five oclock — as I like that fast train, but I have not come to the point of deciding yet.) Dear dear little Fuff. I love you and think of you a great deal.

Your Pinny —

Notes

April/May 1888: Internal evidence indicates that this letter was composed not too long after Jewett and Fields returned from their first trip to St. Augustine, FL. See notes below.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript also were penciled by Fields.

Pond's Extract: Pond's Extract was a healing patent medicine developed by Theron T. Pond (1800-1852).

thy friend: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Cousins, Gertrude and Joseph Cartland. See above "Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents."

Fields has penciled an X after "friend" and noted at the bottom of the page: "Whittier —".

coquina: Wikipedia says: "Coquina ... is a sedimentary rock that is composed either wholly or almost entirely of the transported, abraded, and mechanically-sorted fragments of the shells of molluscs, trilobites, brachiopods, or other invertebrates."

This is a strong clue to the date of this letter, very likely in the spring after the first trip Jewett and Fields took in the winter and spring of 1888 to St. Augustine, FL, where coquina is common on

the beach and is an important construction material.

Fanny Stone: Frances Coolidge Stone (1851-1931) of Newburyport, MA, was the daughter of Massachusetts politician Eben Francis Stone (1822-1895), who served in Congress in 1881-1887. Among her closest friends was Alice Longfellow. Key to Correspondents.

The short Artichoke River is in Newburyport.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Laura's ... Mrs. Rumsey's: Identifying Laura is problematic, but it seems likely that Laura Elizabeth Howe Richards is the only Laura among their acquaintance whom Jewett would refer to by first name. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Rumsey probably is Susan Fiske Rumsey (1823-1902) of Buffalo, NY. It seems likely that Jewett and Fields met her during their winter 1888 travels, which included time in St. Augustine. FL and Aiken, SC.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Etta*

South Berwick 29 April

[*1888*]*

My dear Etta

I did not receive your note until today as it did not reach Brooklyn until after I had gone to Boston. You are very kind to ask me to visit you but it would be impossible this spring, even if I had received the note while I was near you, for I have already been away from home over three

[*Page 2*]

three [*repeated*] months in Washington [DC *or* &c *?*] — and it is very necessary that I should be at home to look after my writing as well as all things which have been sadly neglected.

It does seem a great while since I saw you but I hope we shall meet before long — Sadie* and I often spoke of you and I wish you could persuade her to visit you for I think the change would do her ever so much good — Please remember me to Mrs. Hasbrough* and dont forget that I am your sincerely & affly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Etta: This letter remains mostly a mystery. Among Jewett's acquaintance was Etta Dunham, the daughter of James Dunham of New York, and the subject of a portrait by John Singer Sargent. That she seems to reside in the New York City area suggests that she is the recipient of this letter, but no corroborating evidence has been found. Likewise, Sadie and Mrs. Hasbrough are as yet unknown. The transcription of "Hasbrough" is doubtful; it could be "Hasbrouck" or "Hasbrouch." Among Jewett's correspondents is Sarah (Sadie) Jane McHenry Howell, a Philadelphia relative. No evidence has get been located to suggest that these people are connected with each other, except perhaps by being known to Jewett.

1888: This date is based upon Jewett indicating that she has been away from home for three months, including time in Washington, DC. The only time she is known to have been away from home for so long in the spring and that included a stay in Washington, was in 1888, when she accompanied the ailing Annie Adams Fields on an extended southern trip. It has not been confirmed that they stopped in Brooklyn on this trip, nor is it known whom they may have visited there.

The New York stop suggests another year when Jewett was away from South Berwick for about 3 months before April, in 1896, when she and Annie Fields joined friends on a grueling Caribbean cruise. However, there is as yet no evidence that Jewett visited in Washington, DC on that trip.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers. While working from a microfilm copy, this is uncertain, but the note appears to be written on two sides of a card.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

4 Mo 30 1888

My dear Annie Fields

I don't know where thee are, but I venture to write thee at Charles Street, in the hope that thee and Sarah* have come back from your long Southern outing.* I trust you have brought with you strength to bear the Bear [*of ?*] the East wind which, for some time yet will blow from Labrador ice-bergs. For myself I am thankful that I have lived to see another spring, [and *?*]

[*Page 2*]

watch the slow, beautiful resurrection of Nature. A little north of us, as seen from our hills, the ~~the~~ snow still lingers, but here the grass is greening in the lowlands, and the arbutus blooms among the pine needles. I have been at Amesbury for a

fortnight. Somehow I seem nearer to my mother and sisters:* the very walls of the rooms seem to have become sensitive, to the photographs of unseen presences.

I am looking over the proofs of my verses of the new edition* with a strong desire to drown some of them like so many unlikely kittens.

[*Page 3*]

But my publishers say that there is no getting rid of them, that they have more than nine lives. I hope I am correcting a little of the bad grammar, and rhythmical blunders, which have so long annoyed my friends who have graduated at Harvard instead of a country district school.

What a loss English Literature has sustained in the death of Matthew Arnold!* Thee knew him well, he was a friend of thine, and I am sure thee must feel it deeply. Do you go to the Seaside again this summer? I trust I shall see thee

[*Page 4*]

in Boston before the time of thy flitting. I suppose Celia Thaxter* is at the Shoals, by this time.

I have not read much lately. My eyes will not allow me to use them as I once did. But I have greatly enjoyed the Buchholz Family.* The fun of it is genuine but sometimes a little heavy.

With love to our dear Sarah Jewett, and, keeping you both in remembrance, I am most affectionately thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

1888: Penciled at the top of page one: "10." An "x" is penciled near the bottom left of page 1, before the words "I am thankful." Another penciled "x" appears on page 2, before "I am looking over..."; and on page 3 before "What a loss to English Literature ...."

outing: By 30 April 1888, Fields and Jewett had, indeed, returned from their long recuperative trip to Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

mother and sisters: Whittier's family home reminds him of all the now deceased women of his immediate family: his mother, Abigail Hussey Whittier (1780-1857) and his sisters, Mary Whittier Caldwell (1806-1861) and Elizabeth Hussey Whittier (1815-1864).

new edition: It seems likely that Whittier is working on his collected works, issued by Houghton Mifflin under various titles in 1888.

Arnold: Matthew Arnold. Key to Correspondents.

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents

Buchholz Family: German author, Julius Stinde (1841-1905), wrote a series of books with stories of the Buchholz family, "vivid and humorous studies of Berlin middle-class life," beginning in 1876 and continuing into the 1890s. L. Dora Schmitz's translations, published by Scribner's Sons, began to appear in the U.S. in 1886.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4652.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Wednesday evening

[*Spring 1888*]*

(with a great rain on the roof of the study).

I have been reading Mr. Arnold's "Essays on Celtic Poetry" with perfect reverence for him and his patience and wisdom. How much we love him and believe in him, don't we? Do you know this book and the essay on translating Homer?* I long to read it all with you.

Notes

1888: The reverent tone of this letter suggests that Jewett may have written it after learning of Arnold's death on 15 April 1888. Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) published his book *On the Study of Celtic Literature, and on Translating Homer* in 1867.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

George Bainton to Sarah Orne Jewett

England

May 3. 88.

Dear Madam

Your most kind & generous letter has just reached me. Will you please accept my sincerest thanks. It will find a very prominent place among the few cherished souvenirs of the kind I possess. I have no scrap of the handwriting of your [noble *?*]

[*Page 2*]

poet, Whittier.* It would be a great pleasure to me to possess a note by him, & I am very sincerely indebted to you for so kindly offering to send me one. But I would ask for it only on condition that you can part with it without regret.

Your graceful & very beautiful stories have long been [known *?*] to me, & have always proved very

[*Page 3*]

delightful [reading *?*]. I only regret they are not more widely [known *?*] in England. I have called the attention of several publishers to their great merit & charm, & believe they would well repay publication.

Trusting you will long live to continue your useful & most interesting work.

I am, with most sincere respect,

Truly & gratefully yours

George Bainton.*

Miss Sarah O. Jewett*

Notes

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. See Jewett to Bainton of 10 April 1888.

Jewett: Jewett's name is underlined with a flourish. The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Bainton, George. 2 letters; 1888-1889, bMS Am 1743 (15).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Walter Romeyn Benjamin

[*15 May 1888*]

Mr. Benjamin will please find enclosed a cheque for the letters of Sainte-Beuve and Mme. George Sand, advertised in the May no. of The Collector.*

S. O. Jewett

South Berwick Maine

15 May 1888

Notes

Collector: French literary critic Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve (1804-1869). The Sainte-Beuve book she requested may have been: *Correspondance 1822-1865[-69*] (1877) or *Nouvelle Correspondance de C.A. Sainte-Beuve* (1888).

French novelist, Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin de Francueil, who published as George Sand (1804-1876). English translations of letters of George Sand began to appear in 1886 in multiple volumes.

Richard Cary noted:

> Miss Jewett had a marked predilection for volumes of collected letters. Her library included those of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Madame de Sévigné, Voltaire, Dickens, FitzGerald, Lady L. Duff-Gordon, Thomas Lovell Beddoes, William Cowper, Edward Lear, Lady Louisa Stuart, William Thackeray, and three volumes of British Letters edited by Edward T. Mason. In addition, she mentions reading those of William and Dorothy Wordsworth, Scott, Lowell, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Celia Thaxter, Julie de Lespinasse, Saint Teresa, Queen Victoria, and others.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday evening

[*Spring 1888*]*

Dearest Fuff,

Your surprising paper did not come until tonight and I had begun to grow worried about it, but here it is, safe and sound! I have read it as fast as I could, wondering when you did it! The notes are charmingly selected but you take too much for granted on your reader's part. How does he know what books and how you came to have them, and how they look and all those necessary things — you know perfectly well that in this library* which was gathered most carefully and lovingly, by a book-loving hand near a window which gives on the beautiful bay of Charles River there are certain shelves which hold part of Leigh Hunt's books,* a miscellaneous and most interesting collection which after his death found their way to America.

There Fuff! what a long sentence — but you forget in writing your paper that your reader hasn't all the general information that would make your particular information interesting. You speak of annotated books and then of Leigh Hunt as a man and artist and annotator and then you get down your Diogenes* ———— and go to work! You must write all your astronomizing proclivities will let you (!) about the bookatees and their being your dear bookatees and make it more essayish in the beginning and not hurry on to your lists. Can't you wait and read it aloud to me and let us talk it over just as we did the Centaur work?* You know it isn't like writing a poem. It has all the material, but it wants to be more smoothly and gracefully set, to be finished, in short, as you finished your beautiful Longfellow paper.* I am not sure that I do not want you to write from your journal and your recollections and a letter or two of L. H's, a half page about your seeing him — how he looked and was. Then it would come in as pleasantly about your satisfaction when the library came over to America, (interesting to all book-lovers.) Then

follows a bit about the books as they stand near the western window and so you naturally take down one and another. All this ought not to give you more than ten or fifteen pages more writing. I do really think the paper needs it, it is only four pages or less of Scribner print now and you might just as well make it six or seven with its picture. How much I have written! I am a tiresome Pinny with so many views — but when you are going to do anything I am so ambitious about it, and insist that it must be your very best. I will send the paper so that you ought to have it Saturday morning, but don't do tired work on it, just hunt for the right journal book (I think it would be in the stiff covered one, not in the blue one) and take it to Manchester when we go.

This day seemed very idle to me. I have been good-for-nothing and would not work, but I got John* to take me down to Pine Point* our favorite pine pasture you know, and I felt better. Tell me how the Linnet* was.

Good night dear dear Fuff — If you did only dream how I want to see you! What is in bloom in the garden? I wish I could send you a sniff of our big flowering currant bushes.

Your own P. L.

Notes

1888: While this date is not certain, it seems likely to be close. The letter speaks of Fields's 1886 "Longfellow paper" as being complete, and it seems clear she has completed a first draft of her Leigh Hunt paper, apparently already contracted to *Scribners*. "A Shelf of Old Books: Leigh Hunt" appeared in *Scribner's* in April 1889. When the essay was collected in *A Shelf of Old Books* (1894), there were several illustrations.

library: This is Fields's own library at 148 Charles Street in Boston, MA.

Leigh Hunt's books: James Henry Leigh Hunt (1784-1859) was a British critic, essayist, poet.

Diogenes: Diogenes Laërtius (third century C.E.) was a biographer of ancient Greek philosophers. According to Judith Roman in *Annie Adams Fields*, the collection of Hunt's books that she received included his annotated copy of Diogenes Laërtius (p. 126).

Centaur work: Presumably, this refers to Fields's essay, "Guerin's "Centaur," which appeared in *Scribner's* in August 1892. Georges-Maurice de Guérin (1810-1839) was a French poet. *Le Centaure*, one of major works, was composed in the 1830s and published after his death.

Longfellow paper: Probably this refers to Fields's essay on American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Glimpses of Longfellow in Social Life," which appeared in *Century* in April 1886.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Pine Point: This point on the New Hampshire side of the Piscataqua River forms the southern end of Stiles's (St. Alban's) Cove. Jewett mentions this location in at least two of her works, *The Tory Lover* (1901) and "River Driftwood" (1881).

Linnet: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

This transcription appears in Nancy Ellen Carlock's 1939 Boston University thesis, *S.O.J. A Biography of Sarah Orne Jewett*.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*Summer 1888-96*]

Dear Mary

We had a great day a most lovely drive down finding an old house on the way that we explored! such a pretty old place on a hill that a dozen people might step right into to spend the summer it was so clean and pleasant and un-trampified. The woodwork was really charming with wainscotting and handsome fireplaces, and there is a little decent furniture still left though somebody told us the people (Nick Littlefield)* "moved out" six years ago. I wish you and Helen* could see it. It is a rambling old house which always looked interesting, but I can't remember going there. I quite long to ask John Clark.* We had a beautiful picnic in the woods. They were taken out and anchored to trees and we sat in the near neighborhood on a slope; there were beautiful big pines all about and we could hear the sea making a great noise and get a beautiful salt wind. It was so hot at Ogunquit* that we just drove down to the Maxwell Tavern* and then turned down the new bridge to the beach. You have a beautiful view from it but you know the beach itself is pretty soft there — at any rate it was a high tide. Theodore* caught a chicken partridge by hand just as we were coming out of the big woods which was the great event of the day and we saw a black snake in the road the biggest we ever saw any of us and Mr. Tucker* was speechless for sometime afterward with rage and terror at such a terrible sight. Last night just as I had gone to bed there was a cry of fire and a great blaze down the street and Allen Warren's* house and barn burnt up — the insurance had run out two or three weeks ago. I believe a kerosene lamp blew up. Isn't it too bad! Carrie* went to church this morning but my nose was burnt that I felt it a proper excuse. Carrie and Theodore went off with their supper round the John Grey road* and had great privileges of seeing the Emery's Bridge congregation* on their way to the evenin' meetin'. I requested Rebecca* to dinner and she also took a nap on your sofa and stayed to tea and we had a very nice time. I am hoping for a letter from you in the morning and

find myself thinking of you and Helen very often and wondering what you are doing. The church carpet is all eated with moths and the ladies of the parish* are requested tomorrow at three p.m.

Notes

Summer 1888-96: Internal evidence indicates the letter was written during a summer. As Ned Eastman (d. March 1892) is not mentioned, one might suspect the letter was written between his death and that of Caroline Eastman in April 1897. However, if John Clark is correctly identified below, the letter would have to have been composed before his death on 5 February 1889. For this reason, I have placed it in 1888.

Nick Littlefield: Nick Littlefield has not been identified with certainty. Given that Jewett is reporting on a trip to the vicinity of Wells, ME, it is possible she refers to the deceased residents, Nicholas (1768/9-1834) and Hannah Neal Littlefield (1778-1834), who raised a large family in Wells. However, Nicholas himself would have left the family home long before the time Jewett reports here.

Helen: Among the Jewett friends named Helen, it is difficult to determine which Mary Rice Jewett was visiting when this letter was written. Choices would include Helen Choate Bell, Helen Bigelow Merriman, and Helen Choate Pratt Prince. Key to Correspondents.

John Clark: While this is not certain, this may be John Theodore Clark (1820-1889), the father of Jewett's friend, Cora Lee Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Ogunquit … the Maxwell Tavern: Ogunquit beach, ME is near Wells. The Maxwell Tavern nearby has not yet been identified.

Theodore: Theodore Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

*Mr. Tucke*r: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Allen Warren's house and barn burnt up: Though this is not certain, Jewett likely refers to Edward Allen Warren (1855-1932), who married Geneva Rines (1875-1961). He was well-known as a local contractor and road builder.

Carrie: Caroline Jewett Eastman: See Key to Correspondents.

John Grey road: Also known as Gray's Road, this was northeast of South Berwick, beyond the Emery's Bridge Meeting House. See Pirsig, *The Placenames of Berwick* (2007), pp. 196-7.

the Emery's Bridge congregation: On Emery's Bridge Road was the Emery's Bridge Meeting House, now the Emery's Bridge Christian Church. See Pirsig, *The Placenames of Berwick* (2007), pp. 184-5.

Rebecca: Rebecca Young. Key to Correspondents.

the parish: Though Sarah Orne Jewett became Episcopalian as an adult, when at home, she and her family regularly attended and supported the First Parish Federated Church (Congregational) of South Berwick.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick

Wednesday

[*Summer 1888-1896*]

Dear Loulie

I have been thinking that perhaps I should hear from you; didn't you promise [*short vertical line*] to let me know, dear, when you were coming to Ogunquit? I shall be here and free between now and Tuesday — and I should so like

[*Page 2*]

to have you come for a night or a day or both or more! It is not so cool as ^it is^ close to the sea, and I dont like even to speak of a 'warm welcome' after yesterday, perhaps it will be more [convenient *?*] for you later, but do come now if you can

In haste

S.O.J.

Notes

Summer 1888-1896: This date is a fairly arbitrary guess. In another letter of this date to Mary Rice Jewett, Sarah Orne Jewett reports being at Ogunquit, ME on a very hot day. That suggests that these two letters were composed at about the same time. I have placed both in the earliest likely year.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

Shoals. 21st May (88

Dearest Pin:

I was glad of your little letter. I thought A.F.* was looking "as* well as could be expected after such n long illness, & seemed very cheerful & more like herself than usual. 'Tis a dreadful

disease. Dear Mr. Ward* went down with it at Xmas & only just now begins to crawl out of doors a few minutes at a [time *corrected*].

[*Page 2*]

Is coming here for summer to get strength.

The birds! I laughed too at Mary's* comment. But poor dears, how could they know? I love them all the same, tho' they despoiled my garden of its best glory. They were hungry, poor things! They knew [no *corrected*] better.

I will write to A.F. dear Pin. I am your busiest busy

[*Drawing of sandpiper*]

Notes

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

"as: Thaxter has clearly placed an open quotation mark here, but she does not close the quotation.

Mr. Ware: Rosamond Thaxter reads this name as "Mr. Ward," but to me it looks more like Mr. Ware, a name she mentions in other letters.

Mr. Ware's identity is uncertain, but it is likely he is one of two people.

Darwin Franklin Ware (1831-1890) of Shelburne, MA, seems the less likely. Little is known of him. He is a candidate because Thaxter reports in a letter to Annie Adams Fields in *Letters of Celia Thaxter*, dated 21 April 1891, that Mr. Ware has recently died and that she misses him. Assuming the letter is correctly dated, this makes this Mr. Ware a strong candidate.

Darwin Erastus Ware (1831- 2 April 1897) would seem to be a stronger candidate, though his death date would call into question the dating of the letter to Fields from *Letters of Celia Thaxter*. He is a strong candidate because he lived in Boston, was well-known to Fields as a local lawyer and politician who served on the board of the Associated Charities of Boston. His wife was Adelaide Frances Dickey (probable life dates: 1844-1920).

If Rosamond Thaxter's transcription is, in fact, correct, then it may be useful to know that Celia Thaxter was acquainted with William Hayes Ward, editor of *The Independent*, and with Samuel Gray Ward (1817-1907), an American businessman and poet associated with the Transcendentalists. Key to Correspondents.

Mary's: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence MS Am 1743 Box 4, item 211. Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) 1835-1894. 10 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1888-1890 & [n.d.], 1888-1890.

A typescript is held by the Portsmouth Athenaeum MS129, Rosamond Thaxter's Papers for *Sandpiper*, Folder 12: Correspondence: Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1888-1893. New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

5 Mo 22 1888

My dear Friend

I have been hoping to see thee ever since thy return from the [South *?*],* but the exceptionally hard winter and the still harder Spring have left me with little strength for effort of any kind. I was under the necessity coming here to attend to some matters of business too long neglected. I wonder whether thee are quite recovered from thy winter illness. Mrs James* writes me that she heard

[*Page 2*]

of thy being quite ill at Pilatka [*intended* Palatka, FL *?*]. When shall thee go to Manchester-by the Sea? Or shall thee wander at thy own free will to the mountains, or other sea-side places? —

I have not made any plans for the summer. Probably I shall not venture far. I am still slowly looking over the sheets of the new Edition of my poems,* wishing that many of them had not been written, or written better. Who is Margaret Deland?* I have just read a book of hers "John Ward Preacher" which seems to me a

[*Page 3*]

book of real power. The characters are well drawn — that of the old lawyer especially. Calvinism & agnosticism in Ward & his wife are set in sharp contrast. I am writing for Sarah's new book* which I am sure will be her best.

I enclose a few verses which I have written for the unveiling of the statue of Gov. Bartlett* (a native of Amesbury & a signer of the Declaration of Independence), which will take place on the 4th of July* next. It is that thing which is impossible to any

[*Page 4*]

body but Dr Holmes* — an "occasional" <u>poem</u>.

My ladies Mrs Woodman & Miss Johns are all up in Alaska, surveying Mt Elias, and the glaciers of [*two unrecognized words* Lynn river *?*], and listening perhaps to Goldsmith's* "wolf's long howl on Oonalaska's Shore."

This is a poor letter but my heart goes with it, my dearly beloved friend!

Ever affectionately thy old friend

John G Whittier

Notes

South: By 30 April 1888, Fields and Jewett had returned from their long recuperative trip to Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Mrs James: One may speculate that Whittier refers to Alice Gibbens James (1849-1922), wife of American philosopher William James (1842-1910). While on their winter 1888 trip, Jewett and Fields spent time with the Loring family. Katherine Loring and Alice James (sister to William and author Henry James) were partners. Mrs. William James, then, would be likely to hear news of their friends Fields and Jewett from the Lorings and sister Alice. Key to Correspondents.

poems: It seems likely that Whittier is working on his collected works, issued by Houghton Mifflin under various titles in 1888.

Margaret Deland: A penciled "x" appears in the left margin before this question.

American novelist and poet, Margaret Deland (1857-1945). Her novel, *John Ward, Preacher*, appeared in 1888.

Sarah's new book: Sarah Orne Jewett's 1888 book was *The King of Folly Island and Other People*.

Bartlett: Dr. Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), American physician and statesman, born in Amesbury, MA, was among the signers of the American Declaration of Independence (1776), which is celebrated on July 4, the American Independence Day. His statue stands in Amesbury, near the corner of Main and Heritage Vale Streets. Whittier's dedicatory poem was entitled "One of the Signers."

Dr Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs Woodman & Miss Johnson: The transcription of these names is uncertain, but Mrs. Abby J. Woodman and "the Misses Johnson" (Caroline and Mary) were three of his cousins. See S. T. Pickard, *Life & Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 2, p. 614. See also Whittier's will in *Friends' Intelligencer* 49 (1892), pp. 637-8.

Goldsmith's: Whittier quotes from Irish poet Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774), "Pleasures of Hope," Part 1, line 66.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4851.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

May 25.th 1888.

My dearly beloved friend

I seem to find by your letter than you did not receive a note I wrote you immediately upon reaching home, nor the photograph of Senator Edmunds* of which it was the herald. They were both addressed to you at Amesbury. Sarah* is at Berwick getting the family

[*2*]

back into the old house and I am once more comfortably ensconced in Charles St. But I cannot make up my mind to the idea that both the picture and the letter to thee went astray and I will send this bit off just to discover, because in the hurry of writing you may well have

[*3*]

forgotten to speak of them. Mrs Deland* is a good little creature{,} the wife of Louis Deland the printer, and is full of talent. Some of her verses (she was first known in this way) have a beautiful lilt to them not unlike Herrick* and the men of that school. She is still young and if she continues to grow in the right direction will make a place for herself I am sure.

[*4*]

I am glad you like her story. May I not tell her when I see her? Which I mean to do soon — But alas! I am yet far from strong and I think of things ^to be done^ now rather than do them!

(Though I did write the letter and send the portrait!)

Most affectionately

your

Annie Fields.

Notes

Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828-1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Deland: American novelist and poet, Margaret Deland (1857-1945). Her novel, *John Ward, Preacher*, appeared in 1888. See Wikipedia and Whittier to Fields of 22 May 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury 5/31 1888

My dear friend,

Thy lovely book with the generous dedication reached me last night. I am glad exceedingly to have my name so pleasantly associated with thine. I was longing for it, and especially needed it for I have been suffering from the dampness and east winds of to me the [hardness *?*] month in the whole year — and the loveliest! I have been reading today the King of Folly Island*

[*Page 2*]

with renewed admiration of ^its^ exquisite descriptions, admirable characterization, and pathos which brings tears to one's eyes.

I am sure this [last *?*] book is thy best and that is saying much.

Thanks to thee & Mrs. Fields* for Senator Edmund's fine portrait.*

I am afraid our dear Annie is not yet quite well. I hope she will feel that she can leave her hard work in the Associated Charities for the present.

[*Page 3*]

I am quite uncertain as ^to^ myself this summer. I scarcely feel like looking forward. I go to Oak Knoll as soon as the rain & fog pass off. The dampness of this spring has been very trying to me.

With grateful love thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

the King of Folly Island: Appearing in 1888, "This book of stories is dedicated with grateful affection to John Greenleaf Whittier."

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields was a leader of the Associated Charities of Boston.

Senator Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828-1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the South Berwick Public Library, South Berwick, ME. Transcription by John Richardson.

Sister Thérésia* to Sarah Orne Jewett

This letter was composed in French. A transcription follows the translation.

[*May / June 1888*]*

[*3 unrecognized abbreviations*] St Augustine

Mademoiselle,

With an expressive smile I have welcomed your charming White Heron* for he brought me on his wings good memories of you.

Though I've not yet had time to read your work, I judge it from my knowledge of its <u>author</u>.

I also have remembered you when I pass the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, where your little flower represents you for me. Then I say a little prayer to the good and gracious Virgin for continued blessings

[*Page 2*]

of God upon you and yours. I am truly pleased to learn that you and Mrs. Fields* continue in good health, for this will encourage you both to return and enjoy the good climate of St. Augustine.

Please thank Mrs. F. again for her kindness regarding the subscription. We saw nothing more from the list, and we don't know whom to contact.

The Convent of St. Joseph collected $100 during March, the month of St. Joseph. For now we have $230. I hope that if you come back next year, I can show you our new altar.

Knowing that good Mrs. Fields is generally interested in everyone, I would like her to remember what I told her one day about young women who wish to become nuns. I'm sure she could easily direct some of such women to our novitiate. I believe I told her our admission conditions, which are:

[*Page 3*]

- Good and fervent Catholics recommended by the priests of their parish.

- Of legitimate birth and unsullied reputation.

- Enjoying a constitution capable of withstanding heat and the various tasks of the convent.

- Having no hereditary disease in the family such as madness, epilepsy etc.

When a candidate possesses neither good fortune nor education, we will overlook these conditions so long as she is devoted and fervent.

This new sort of good work cannot fail to please God, Who will certainly bless and reward those who help with these hard tasks.

Mrs. Fields and you, as well, can present a detailed description of our community, since you seem to remember me well, though I am the most insignificant of our sisters to speak with you about the world.

[*Page 4*]

If St. Augustine interests the young lady you brought me one day, that will satisfy you more

than me, who only lives, loves and aspires to solitude. All I see is that many visitors have returned to their families, where like you, they will prove this adage: There's no place like home.

May you, mademoiselle, enjoy your home and family for a long time. That blessing is what I give you, along with the wish that you enjoy the love of God, on whom everything depends and within Whose Heart, I greet you and name myself

your much devoted

Sr L. Thérésia

Notes

May/June 1888: Probably this letter was written soon after Jewett and Fields completed one of their stays in St. Augustine: 1888, 1890, 1896. Very likely this is from late spring of 1888, after Jewett's return home near the end of April, when *A White Heron* was her most recent story collection. If this is correct, then it seems likely that the "young lady" Jewett introduced to Sister Thérésia was one of the Loring sisters, Katharine Peabody Loring or Louisa Putnam Loring. See, for example, Caleb William Loring to Louisa Putnam Loring of 17 April 1888. Key to Correspondents.

Sister Thérésia: In *Beyond the Call: The Legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Florida* (2008) by Sister Thomas Joseph McGoldrick, Theresia Roymeyer is mentioned as the Superior of the group of Sisters of St. Joseph who moved from St. Augustine, FL to Fall River, MA in 1902. While it seems likely this is the author of this letter, I have found no further information about her and, therefore, cannot be sure she is the right person.

According to the history of the St. Joseph Academy, the academy was founded after the American Civil War as a school for freed slaves:

> The year was 1866 and the south was recovering from the Civil War. Freed slaves needed the wherewithal to pursue a livelihood. Education was the key. Bishop Verot knew of an order of religious women in his home town of LePuy [*Le Puy-en-Velay*], France – the Sisters of St. Joseph. He requested eight to come to begin to teach literacy to the newly freed slaves. Many volunteered, eight were chosen and, amid heat, humidity and mosquitoes, they began classes in November 1866…. In 1876, the Academy was state chartered and in 1877 a boarding school for young women began. (It would remain until 1968.) — https://www.sjaweb.org/about-sja/history

White Heron: Jewett's story, "A While Heron" first appeared in her book, *A White Heron and Other Stories* (1886). It seems likely that Jewett sent Sister Thérésia a copy of her book, probably soon after her first trip to St. Augustine in 1888, presumably before her next book of stories became available in 1888, *The King of Folly Island*.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Professor Hammond and I speculate that with the copy of *A White Heron*, Jewett provided Sister Thérésia with Annie Fields's mailing address, Fields must have donated to the Sisters of St. Joseph without providing her address. Fields was particularly interested in the education of freedmen. During her 1888 trip south, she visited the Penn School for freedman, led by her friend Laura Towne, near Beaufort, SC.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, ms 1743 Box 4, item 212.

Transcription

[*3 unrecognized abbreviations*] S^{t} Augustine

Mademoiselle,

Avec un expressif [sourire *?*] ai-je accueilli votre charmant Héron blanc car il m'a apporté sur ses ailes la preuve de votre bon souvenir.

Quoique je n'ai encore eu le temps de lire votre ouvrage j'en juge par avance par son Auteur.

J'ai également pensé à vous bien les fois surtout en passant devant le shrine de N. D. de Lourdes où votre petite fleur semble vous représenter. Alors, je fais une petite prière à cette gracieuse et bonne Vierge pour la continuation des bénédictions

[*Page 2*]

de Dieu sur vous et les vôtres.
J'éprouve un réel plaisir d'apprendre que vous et Madame Fields jouissez d'une bonne santé, cela vous encouragera l'une et l'autre à revenir jouir du bon climat augustinien.

Veuillez encore une fois, remercier Mme F. pour ses bontés au sujet de la souscription. Nous n'avons plus rien vu de la liste et ne savons à qui nous adresser.

St Joseph a été réellement bon pendant son mois (mars) il a [colecté *for* collecté] 100 d. pour le
moment, nous pouvons disposer de 230 dollar. J'espère que l'année prochaine, si vous revenez je pourrai vous montrer notre nouvel autel.

Sachant que cette bonne Dame s'intéresse indifféremment à tout le monde j'aimerais qu'elle se rappelât de ce que je lui disais un jour au sujet des jeunes personnes qui désireraient se faire religieuses. Je suis sure qu'elle pourrait aisément en diriger quelques-unes dans notre noviciat. Je crois lui avoir donné

[*Page 3*]

nos conditions d'admission lesquelles sont :
Bonnes et ferventes catholiques recommandées
par les prêtres de leur paroisse. Légitime et d'une réputation sans souillure. Jouissant d'une santé capable de supporter les chaleurs et les différents emplois de la maison. N'ayant aucune maladie héréditaire dans la famille tel que folie, épilepsie etc. Quand la fortune ni la science ne peuvent se rencontrer nous passons pardessus pour vu qu'il y ait la bonne volonté d'être dévouées et ferventes.

Ce nouveau genre de bonne oeuvre ne peut manquer d'être agréable à Dieu Lequel certainement bénira et récompensera tout l'embarras qu'il donnera.

Madame Fields ainsi que vous, Mademoiselle pouvez donner une bonne idée de notre communauté puisque vous paraissez vous rappeler en bonne part de moi qui suis la plus insignifiante de nos soeurs

[*Page 4*]

Gentil de vous parler du monde — si St Augustine l'intéressante demoiselle que vous m'avez amenée
un jour, vous satisfera plus amplement que moi qui ne vit n'aime et n'ambitionne que la solitude. Tout ce que je remarque, c'est que beaucoup de visiteurs sont retournés dans leur famille où comme vous ils vérifieront cet adage: Rien n'est si sauf que le chez-moi.

Puissiez-vous, Mademoiselle, en jouir longtemps
et vos parents avec vous; c'est ce que je vous. souhaite ainsi que l'amour de Celui
de qui ^tout^ dépend et dans le Coeur Duquel je vous salue et me dis
Votre bien dévouée

Votre bien dévouée

Sr L. Thérésia

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

[*Late spring, 1888*]*

Manchester by the Sea

Saturday —

Dear Loulie

Here I am, helping to set up the housekeeping and I was so glad to have your letter yesterday. I am so pleased because you liked Miss Peck: Mrs Fields* has always favored her, but the Sister Wisby Story* is my joy and pride.

[*Page 2*]

I do think it is pretty where Miss Peck speaks of sitting up front with the eyes of the whole congregation sticking in her back !!! (Please excuse my quoting it!) — I am going home the first of the week so that I fear I shall not see you and Mrs. Dresel this time but I shall come back very soon, probably

[*Page 3*]

the last day or two.

Mrs. Fields would send love if she knew of my letter but I cant stop to give notice because it is time to send to the post office

Yours with many thanks

S.O.J.

Notes

1888: Though someone has written "1887 ?" in upper left corner of page 1, it seems more likely that Jewett composed this letter after the appearance of *The King of Folly Island* in 1888, probably in late spring, when Annie Fields annually shifted her housekeeping to Manchester.

Miss Peck ... Sister Wisby: Miss Peck's Promotion" appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* in June 1887. "The Courting of Sister Wisby" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in May 1887. That Jewett and Dresel are corresponding about both stories suggests that perhaps Dresel has been reading them in *The King of Folly Island*, which appeared after March of 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Columbia University Libraries Special Collections in the Sarah Orne Jewett letters, Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St.

June 1st

[*1888*]*

My dear friend:

I was a great pleasure to hear through Sarah* that you were in Amesbury and (except a cold) pretty well.

May I ask you to read the enclosed, though I greatly fear to burden you? I have a thought of printing but I shall not do it, if you disapprove.

I trust this sunshine today will send your cold to other [regions *corrected*] out of New England in June{.}

[*Page 2*]

I saw Mr. Lowell* a few days ago but he is not very strong yet, not enough like himself to wish to come

to town even to see his sister Mrs Putnam who is also ill.

We have had an interesting English woman here, Mrs. Chant,* with the gift of tongues. She has been moving the face of the waters. I will tell you more

[*Page 3*]

of her when we meet —

Celia Thaxter* has been ill again and I am going to stay a few days with her very soon. The pain she has suffered has taken her strength away and she has hardly left her room of late.

Good bye dear friend. May the benediction of this beautiful day rest

[*Page 4*]

upon you —

Most affectionately yours

Annie Fields

Notes

1888: During Whittier's lifetime, Laura Chant (see note below) made three visits to the United States, each of which could have placed her in Boston around 1 June. The New York *Times* reported that Chant spoke in Boston to the National Woman Suffrage Association on 29 May 1888. (30 May 1888, p. 2). She also could have been in Boston in late May and early June of 1890 and 1893. The Boston *Daily Globe* (8 May 1893) reports that her visit to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago on behalf of Woman Suffrage was her third visit to the U.S.

Though Fields could be reporting on Chant's Boston stops in any of the three years, this letter seems to respond to a first meeting. On the basis of this impression, I have placed it in 1888.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

His sister was Mary Traill Spence Lowell Putnam (1810-1898). Find a Grave.

Mrs. Chant: British social reformer Laura Ormiston Chant (1848-1923), according to Wikipedia, was a prominent international lecturer on social purity, temperance, and women's rights.

Reference to speaking in tongues evokes the New Testament account of Pentecost, when according the some interpretations, the Holy Spirit filled the disciples of Jesus after his death and they were able to speak in several languages to an assembled crowd of people (Acts of the Apostles 2).

The reference to "the face of the waters" points toward the Genesis 1 account of the creation in which "the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Thaxter: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Box: 12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, Box 12: 796-7**.** Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 15 letters to unidentified persons.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*5 June 1888*]*

Dear, when I came home late Sunday night (~~when~~ I had been to the country to see a sick friend) I could [have cried over *?*] the [little hymeneal summons *?*] from the dear White Lady* —

It would have been [so good *?*] to be

[*Page 2*]

with you all — but I had lost the [*unrecognized word*] & did not know it was coming <u>that</u> evening.

Then I thought I [could *?*] come to 148* on Monday. No. And so finally I [took *?*] refuge [from *corrected*] fate in writing a little message of love here: & to ask how long it will be that you abide, just now. I want to see you & just say how I love the new volume ([despite *?*] of its dull and & ill-cut cover).* I think it the best yet: somehow "Miss Tempy"

[*Page 3*]

is a highwater mark — <u>perfect</u>: & the [thing *?*] is lovely — [while *?*] this [*unrecognized word*] I have just read the Village Shop, with its delicate web, & its beautiful literary quality, [aloud *?*] to gold [memory *?*].

My love to you.

Your

<u>Sw</u>

June 5

Notes

5 June 1888: Jewett's short stories, "Miss Tempy's Watchers" and "A Village Shop," appeared in *The King of Folly Island* (1888). "A Village Shop" was first published in this volume.

White Lady: More certainty about the transcription of the context might aid in identifying this person. Whitman sometimes gives extravagant titles to Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

148: The Boston residence of Annie Adams Fields at 148 Charles Street.

cover: Whitman designed the cover for Jewett's 1888 volume, *The King of Folly Island*. Whether she was dissatisfied with her work or its realization, or if she is being self-deprecating is not clear.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 -107.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Co.

10 June 1888

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

Please send the book* of which you wrote me, and charge the postage to my account, though I fear the poems are not going to be very interesting.

I would like to see the notices of Folly Island*

[*Page 2*]

and will return them if you wish. I suppose that a good number must have come in — I hope that this new venture is going fairly well? One cannot expect a great deal from a book of short stories, but some of these are the very best I can do and that is a consolation!

Yours very truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

the book: In the upper left corner of page 1, underlined and in another hand: "Sarah O. Jewett". Beneath this is a Houghton, Mifflin date stamp reading 11 June 1888. A diagonal line has been drawn through the first paragraph, and at the top of this line in a different hand are penciled initials that appear to have been deleted and may read J.K.A.

Folly Island: Jewett's story collection, *The King of Folly Island*, appeared in 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday afternoon

[*10 June 1888*]

Dearest Fuff.*

Such a hot and agreeable day as yesterday was! We played on the beach but not quite so hard as at York, the sun being hotter. I got pretty tired but enjoyed it all vastly, and met with many old and fond friends at the fishhouses — George Hatch and Georgie* whom I wrote the story about — and old Dan Butland who cant go out fishing anymore so that he sits at home and knits stockings

[*Page 2*]

and thinks on his early days as able seaman in foreign parts. His wife died two or three years ago and he calls her Poor dear!* when he talks about her. And there was big Joe Hubbard and big Charles Butland who pulled him out of the waves in an adverse squall at the Banks once so that they are famous pals: — all the old fishermen whom I have known since these many years; and Aaron and Leander Perkins and younger fry who were also

[*Page 3*]

cordial and yet not so dear —

I lagged along from one fishhouse door to the next, and thought I wasnt going to see Dan Butland the knitter, but early in the afternoon he rolled along as if he trod a quarterdeck all the way and mentioned after a time that he saw me driving down — he saw a team and got his glass and found out it was I — My heart was quite touched when I found that he hadn't been over to the mooring but once before this spring! I

[*Page 4*]

dont think from the looks of him that he will be missing Poor dear a great while longer. Yet he asked for some good books of stories, detective ones, none of your lovesick kind which he couldnt go! I must betake me to Wells again before long with a selection of literary offerings. George Hatch the elder being also a great reader, but of another stamp, and really one of the best informed men I ever knew never forgetting anything apparently and when I tried to tell him about being at St. Augustine* he

[*Page 5*]

told me the Indians names at the Fort, and much else that had slipped my mind. The drive home was as lovely as it could be, the country is so green and the farms all so tidy, and the sheep and cattle thick in the pastures with such a sunset across all the western sky.

This makes me think of Manchester and the cow! and Annie!* I should advise her to stay on { — } certainly

[*Page 6*]

it will be a most valuable experience for her (I believe, and she will [find *corrected*] it easier after this first week when people and house and all are new. I would tell her so. And I would write to [miss *so it appears*] Eustis* by and by when it seems

right and see what she thinks — that is if worst comes to worst — You can tell Annie that she would have found her life more irregular there with you than in Boston during this exceptional winter, with drives, and people coming

[*Page 7*]

and going — It has been lonely for her no doubt and a little more than she [can *or* could *?*] carry easily, but I would 'let her set a while' and tell her to make the best of it now she is there and see how things go. And I wouldn't worry my head dear little Fuff —) I am afraid that things will be dusty here before you come, but I dont believe the roses will have gone — and that will be nice. Did I ever tell you that there is a new hotel built over on the Cliffs*

[*Page 8*]

and perhaps we can go there by [and *corrected*] by for a day or two —

This morning I have been to church and this afternoon I rested and read, chiefly the Alchemist* which is a great story, all the early part of it — I think that Balzac got tired of it toward the end — there where he makes Margaret regain her lost fortunes over and over as a lobster grows a new claw.

{ Pinny not to tease Fuff any more to come but [so *?*] long for the 29th to be here, and to have her dearest Fuff all safe under the green trees, and

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 5*]

not let her do much but play and read good little books and pull two weeds a day in the garden. Dear Fuff when I get thinking about you I can hardly wait.

Yours ever

Pinny)

Notes

1888: In her partial transcription, Fields dates this letter in 1885, but as the notes below show, this is not likely, as Jewett indicates she has recently been in St. Augustine, FL. Though the letter could have been composed any time after spring of 1888, when Jewett was first in St. Augustine, it seems likely that she refers to the Charles Butland of Wells, ME who died in January 1889. See notes below.

Fuff: This manuscript shows Fields's active editing in ways that are less clear in other manuscripts that she worked over for her 1911 selection of Jewett's letters. Presumably in her handwriting are penciled notes on the upper right of page 1,

South Berwick,
June 1885
~~about Wells Beach~~

Up the left margin of page one is: "(initials)".

Throughout the letter, Fields deletes in pencil all names. For these in her transcription, she substitutes initials, some correct and some not.

Parentheses in this text also have been penciled in by Fields.

Georgie: Probably this is Jewett's character, Georgie, the young son of a fisherman in "A Bit of Shore Life," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (44:200-211) in August 1879.

"Poor dear!": This fisherman is a model for Captain Tilley in "Along Shore" in *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

Further identifying the men Jewett mentions is an uncertain undertaking. Here are some likely possibilities, people of the same name who resided in Wells, Maine at the right time.

George P. Hatch (1833-1906).
George W. Hatch (1865-1952)
Dan Butland (1825-1910)
Charles Butland (1823- 24 January1889), Dan Butland's brother
Joseph Hubbard (1821-1893), who married Daniel Butland's sister, Catharine,
or Joseph E. Hubbard (1839-1918)
Aaron Alphonso Perkins (1843-1929)
No Leander Perkins has been located near Wells, ME, though several men of this name are buried down east, in Hancock County, ME. However, a 1900 photograph of Wells Beach fishermen, in *Wells* (2003) by Hope M. Shelley, includes a Leander Perkins.

the Banks: The Grand Banks, according to *Britannica Online*, "a portion of the North American continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean, lying southeast and south of Newfoundland, Canada. Noted as an international fishing ground, the banks extend for 350 miles (560 km) north to south and for 420 miles (675 km) east to west."

St. Augustine: The Spanish first permanent settlement in North America was St. Augustine, Florida. Jewett and Fields visited the city fairly often, and Jewett's story, "Jim's Little Woman" in *The Life of Nancy* (1895), is set there.

Jewett's first visit to St. Augustine was in the spring of 1888, when she accompanied the ailing Anne Fields on a southern journey that included a stay with Laura Towne near Beaufort, SC, and culminated at the newly opened Ponce de Leon hotel in St. Augustine. Jewett and Fields returned to St. Augustine in February 1890 and again in March 1896.

Annie: She may be a relative of Miss Eustis, but no further information has yet been discovered.

Eustis: It is possible that this is Elizabeth Mussey Eustis (1858-1936), a resident of Boston, who fortunately survived the *Titanic* disaster of 1912. See *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Volumes 76-77, pp. lxxxviii-lxxxix.

the "Alchemist"... Balzac: Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850), *The Alchemist, or, the House of Claes* (English translation, 1861).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

In the Houghton digital images collection, the first and second halves of the manuscript are far separated, the first half appearing at letter 20, and the second at 183.

Annie Fields Transcription

An edited selection from this letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911) p. 26.

June, 1896.

Such a hot and agreeable day as yesterday was! We played on the beach at Wells, but not quite so hard as at York, the sun being hotter. I got pretty tired, but enjoyed it all vastly, and met with many old and fond friends at the fish-houses, — R -, M — and F —, whom I wrote the story about, and old D — B —, who can't go out fishing any more, so that he sits at home and *knits stockings* and thinks on his early days as an able seaman in foreign parts. His wife died two or three years ago and he calls her "Poor dear!" when he talks about her. And there was big C. D. and big H. R., who pulled him out of the waves in an adverse squall at the Banks once, so that they, are famous pals; all the old fishermen whom I have known since these many years; and A — and L — P — and younger fry, who were also cordial and yet not so dear. I lagged along from one fish-house door to the next, and thought I wasn't going to see D — B —, the knitter, but early in the afternoon he rolled along as if he trod a quarter-deck all the way, and mentioned after a time that he saw me driving down — he saw a team and *got his glass* and found out it was I. My heart was quite touched when I found that he hadn't been over to the moorings but once before this spring! I don't think from the looks of him that he will be missing "Poor dear" a great while longer. Yet he asked for some good books of stories, *detective ones*, none of your lovesick kind, which he couldn't go! I must betake me to Wells again before long with a selection of literary offerings, G — H —, the elder, being a great reader, but of another stamp and really one of the best-informed men I ever knew, never forgetting anything apparently; and when I tried to tell him about being at St. Augustine, he told me the Indian names at the Fort, and much else that had slipped my mind. The drive home was as lovely as it could be, the country so green and the farms all so tidy, and the sheep and cattle thick in the pastures, with such a sunset across all the western sky.

This morning I have been to church, and this afternoon I rested and read, chiefly the "Alchemist," which is a great story, all the early part of it. I think that Balzac* got tired of it toward the end — there where he makes Margaret regain her lost fortune over and over, as a lobster grows a new claw.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

South Berwick

10 June 1888

My dear Loulie

The trouble is I keep waiting for time to write you a long letter! Yours was most welcome and delightful — I had been wishing and wishing to hear about the voyage — and about getting there, and Mamma, how she was and your uncle, how he liked it, and Marianne* was she in the least glad to see you ???

[*Page 2*]

but now I wish to hear still more. Somehow or other all this spring I have found it very hard to write letters, and I put them off and put them off until I am completely ashamed — I have understood better in this last month than before, how nearly it was like having an illness myself to have been so worn with anxiety about dear Mrs. Fields* all through those

[*Page 3*]

long weeks from January to May. Indeed I cannot shake off a lingering shadow of uneasiness yet — when I am with her, and I find myself worrying about things that might easily happen if she were well. She goes to the Charity building every day for a while now, and seems to enjoy it, and on the 29th she is to come to me for most of the time until September when we shall go to Manchester — Mifs Eustis* only has the house until then. I think that we may take a stray away journey down the coast of Maine late in July and early in August —

[*Page 4*]

We have always meant to do it sometime and this is a good chance. But when the time comes it may seem better for her to ^go^ inland, & among the hills. Mr. Whittier* [always *corrected*] entices us that way when he is at Asquam —

It seems* very pleasant here and yet I have such a queer feeling at watching spring twice over — I got as far as hollyhocks and cardinal flowers in Florida and now have just come to early roses again — This week I have been to the sea-shore twice and the last day I had

[*Page 5*]

a beautiful good time [*deletion*] with some old fishermen whom I have known ever since I was very young — They are pretty old, two of them, and one who is my favorite observed me driving across the marshes and sighted me with his glass — as if I were a ship on the high seas. Poor old fellow: his wife [died *corrected*] not long ago and he is very lonely and always calls her "poor dear"* when he talks about

[*Page 6*]

her — He cant go out fishing any more so he knits stockings if you please, and sells them at the country store a mile or two inland. [*Deletion*] He asked me for something to read — "None of your lovesick tales" which he "couldn't go" — and so I am thinking up a splendid list against I go to Wells again. Treasure Island* will fill the requisition dont you think so? A detective story was mentioned however. He lives all alone and keeps Poor dear's little house as

[*Page 7*]

neat as wax — and feels very much as she used, I dont doubt when he had gone on a long voyage — Wells is such a pleasant old place. I should like to have you go there some day with me — —— Since I began this letter two things have happened — Three (3) grand aunts* are coming together to stay two days and a night, being all the grand aunts I have in the world, and much beloved and never came to Berwick all at once

[*Page 8*]

before! And on Saturday I have promised Mrs. Beal* that I will go to Nahant to spend Sunday. Mrs. Fields is to be there too and I am to surprise her. (It is a little lark) and then I mean to go to town for a day or two to do some last odds and ends of summer shopping — I saw The Ladies* one day not long ago just before they went to Beverly. They were very funny about things but so affectionate and dear. I doubt if I see them again until September{.} Dear Loulie this is a beginning of a letter only — and so I must put to be continued — at this end,

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 5*]

I have ever so much else to say{.} Best love to dear Mrs. Dresel. I hate to have you away but I am very glad you like it! Yours ever lovingly.

S.O.J.

Notes

uncle and Marianne: It is not yet certain to which uncle Jewett refers. For Marianne Theresia Brockhaus, Key to Correspondents.

Eustis: It is possible that this is Elizabeth Mussey Eustis (1858-1936), a resident of Boston, who fortunately survived the *Titanic* disaster of 1912. See *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Volumes 76-77, pp. lxxxviii-lxxxix.

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

It seems: In the margin before these words someone has placed a large "X" in purple pencil.

"poor dear": Jewett made this fisherman into a character in the book version of *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896), "Along Shore."

Treasure Island: Scottish author, Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) published *Treasure Island* in 1883.

grand aunts: Jewett's grand aunts were Helen Williams Gilman, Mary Olivia Gilman Long, and Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell. Key to Correspondents.

Beal: Louisa Jane Adams Beal. See her sister, Annie Adams Fields in Key to Correspondents.

The Ladies: Which of Jewett's acquaintance these women are is not certain, but it seems likely that "the ladies" are Dresel's Beverly neighbors, Susan Burley Howes Cabot and her sister, Elizabeth Howes. Key to Correspondents. See Jewett to Dresel of 9 August 1892.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*14 June 1888*]*

Wednesday Evening

Dearest Pin: Did you send me more claret? O very dear dear child please do not continue to do those things! As sweet and refreshing as your goodness is to me I feel as if you had other claims & as if you were giving me more than you ought. But I rejoice all the same in your love and care and wrap myself in it by night and by day. I have had a good afternoon at C. Sh.* and feel better than I have for some time in spite of being possessed by escaping gas last night, or rather by [Charity *?*] [*unrecognized marks*] rapping at my door in the "dead waste and middle of the night"* to tell me. Alas! what evil spirit led me to have these conveniences put in. If they

[*Page 2*]

are not pulled just right I fear they are apt to allow the gas to escape — Well, we must get such comfort as we can out of them and I rejoice to think that Pinny's arms will have a rest!!

As for this Katy — I "dunno"! She is of the kind who challenges everything but I shall let her putter round for a while longer and then some day I shall ask her what she means to do (unless she tells me first!) because I will not keep her all summer unless she shows a more decided interest in her place. She is very inefficient about things in general I fear, but her table work is well done. Mais nous verrons!*

[*Page 3*]

If I find her incapable of real interest I shall try again{.} I do not want a sniffy body about.

I went to see dear Marygold after the conference. Mrs. Whitman had borrowed Mr. Brooks's sermon on Mr. Clarke* for her to read and she was just turning its pages. She said she would like me to read her the whole of it which I did with living joy. It is most beautiful, O most beautiful, such a heart=felt tribute too to our dear friend — I shall tell you more about it when we meet —

Marygold was buried in roses as usual. She described Ellen's* coming in, in great distress to think she had not seen it "on the scope" that Mrs Lodge* was ill. She was very funny in her picture of [her *?*].

I do not see my way darling to get off just

[*Page 4*]

now for there is such need of workers here and I am better every one of these beautiful days.

Rejoice with me, my darling, that I can be of use again in these days that remain and bid me "good speed" — of course I wish we were together, but I feel as if my life were here and my calling and my purpose{.} By and by when I feel a little tired I will come to you O so gladly —

Good night my dearest one! from your own

Annie Fields.

I cannot seem to get hold of "Robert Elsemere."*

Notes

1888: 1885 appears bracketed and penciled in another hand. However, an envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Jewett in South Berwick and postmarked 14 June 1888. The notes below suggest that the latter is the correct date.

C. Sh.: This person or place has not yet been identified.

middle of the night: Fields quotes from William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Act 1 Scene 2, regarding the time when the ghost of Hamlet's father routinely appears.

verrons: French. But we will see.

Marygold ... Whitman ... Brooks's sermon ... Mr. Clarke: Marygold, usually Marigold, is a nickname for Mary Greenwood Lodge. For her and Sarah Wyman Whitman.and Phillips Brooks, Key to Correspondents. American minister and woman suffragist James Freeman Clarke (1810- 8 June 1888).

Ellen: Probably Fields refers either to Ellen Tucker Emerson or Ellen Frances Mason. Key to Correspondents.

"Robert Elsemere": British novelist Mary Augusta Ward published *Robert Elsemere* in 1888. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence, 100 letters from Annie Adams Fields, bMS Am 1743.1 Box 1, Item 33.

Annie Adams Fields to Anna Loring Dresel.

148 Charles St. June 18th '88

Boston.

My dear friend:

The first thing to greet me on my toilet table when I returned from the South, was your beautiful parting gift. It has lain where I found it, ever since suggesting many a thought of you and yours; but I have avoided writing more than is necessary because (you know!) paper interviews take something of one's strength also. But it is a pure pleasure to find a moment when I can say not only "thank you" but when we can talk as it were. Today is a holiday here. Yesterday Sunday being the 17th of June,* so I am free for

[*Page 2*]

a time! In the early afternoon I am going to Craigie House where Miss Longfellow* has asked some Working Girls* to pass a day. You will be interested to know that she is doing all a daughter can to make Craigie House hospitable to all who are interested to go there. On Wednesday again the Annex girls* are to go and I shall be interested to see the contrast between the two. I hope it will be very great because I always [suffer *?*] for girls who work with their hands and yet are longing for something else.

You will see by this that I am much better, indeed, quite well if not so strong as before my illness. I hope you too are much better!

Yesterday I mailed you the Christian Register containing some things that have been said and done —- (but alas!

[*Page 3*]

how poor it all seems in contrast to what we feel) in memory of our dear friend Mr. Clarke.* I thought of you on that day when his dead form was brought and laid down before the spot where his spirit had shown out so brightly for mankind year after year, and I know that you were there in thought. One of the most perfect tributes — to me, the most perfect was made by Phillips Brooks* and by strange good fortune I read the sermon aloud from his manuscript to Mary Lodge* who has been very ill. (She is convalescing now but you know what a hard period the time of convalescence is.) His text is "Ye are our Epistle".* He portrays Paul striving to say in simple phrase so that men might understand the truth he had himself learned and at last build up the Tiring Man ^to whom he wrote^ to grave the significance of it on his [*deleted word*] heart so that other men might read. He said Mr. Clarke had done this. He had carried the living truth written

[*Page 4*]

on his own heart to men. -— This is only a hint of the scheme of the sermon but you will fill it out and see what he could make of it. At present it will not be finished.

It is very pretty just now here in Charles St. Our bit of ground has grown far more green and leafy and flowery since you saw it last. Mr. Millet* and his little family, consisting of his picturesque wife, their baby girl and the dog pass the entire day there when the weather is as warm as it is today under the trees. The baby tumbles about in the grass or swings in her small hammock and makes a lovely picture what ever she does. I shall stay here until July when I go to make Sarah a visit at South Berwick — afterward we mean to wander off along the coast of Maine for a few weeks and about the 1st of Sept. I go to Manchester. So you have the story of our plans.

Meanwhile she has kindly lent me

(5

Loulie's nice long letter* to read telling us a great many things I wanted to know though I was sorry to know you had such a bad voyage. O what a pond that is! The depths of its villainy will never be known however we may measure the depths of its waters.

Sarah and I were delighted to have Loulie's letter and she will have an answer I know by and by. At present the dear child has been over tired with moving back into the old house where she was born — not so bad as going to a new house but there is a great deal of work attendant upon such changes.*

(6

I can't remember what I told you of our Southern trip. The days at St. Helena with Laura Towne were intensely interesting because the result of her work lay like a map before us. Florida too was delightful in quite another way, with its semi-tropical vegetation, its beautiful buildings and lovely sea.

St. Helena however was full of our dark history and every step spoke to us of the sacrifice and sufferings of humanity and of its advance in the present time. But it is good to be here again, in the old familiar places where I can see the chair in which Mr. Clarke last sat and listen to his voice in the silence. Good bye yours most lovingly,

Annie Fields

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

My affectionate remembrance to you all.

Notes

17 June: June 17 is Bunker Hill Day in Suffolk County, MA, memorializing the American Revolution's Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

Craigie House ... Miss Longfellow ... Working Girls: Craigie House was the home of American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). After his death, his daughter Alice Mary Longfellow continued at Craigie House. A traveler, preservationist and philanthropist, Longfellow, along with Fields, joined in the work of providing social occasions for working women of the Boston area.

Annex girls: The Annex girls were students at the Harvard Annex, a precursor to Radcliffe College, that offered women access to Harvard faculty and resources. The "Annex girls" were generally the daughters of the wealthy and/or privileged, in contrast to the "working girls" Alice Longfellow also hosted.

Mr. Clarke: James Freeman Clarke (April 4, 1810 - June 8, 1888) was an American theologian and author, and a prominent abolitionist.

Phillips Brooks: Key to Correspondents. His sermon on "Living Epistles" was reprinted — minus reference to Mr. Clarke — in *Seeking Life and Other Sermons* (1904).

Mary Lodge: Mary Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Millet: Josiah Byram Millet (1853-1938) and Emily Adams McCleary (1856-1941) married on 30 Oct 1883 in Boston. They had two daughters: Hilda, Mrs. William Harris Booth (November 1885-1966) and Elizabeth Foster, Mrs. Arthur Graham

Carey, (November 1889 - 1955). He was a journalist and publisher, who managed the art department of Houghton, Mifflin and Company before becoming art editor at *Scribner's* and then beginning his own publishing business. In 1890, they were near neighbors of Fields at 150 Charles Street. See also Harvard Class of 1877 Secretary's Report, pp. 43-4.

born: After the death of the daughters' uncle, William Jewett, in 1887, Sarah and her sister, Mary, and their mother moved from their home next door into the Jewett House, at the corner of Portland and Main in South Berwick, where Sarah was born. At the same time, the youngest sister, Caroline, with her husband Edwin Eastman and their son, Theodore, moved into the vacated house, which had been the daughters' childhood home.

That this change was under way in June 1888 probably explains some topics of Jewett's letters to Mary during the weeks Jewett and Fields were in the South. Jewett's Friday 23 March letter to Mary opens with reference to Olive taking furniture and to a contractor working on a roof. Presumably, these activities are part of the complex process of moving two families into two houses.

And in the letter from the Ponce de Leon, St. Augustine — Monday, Jewett includes a long post-script about feeling torn in two by her concern for Annie Fields's health and being needed at home in South Berwick. It seems likely the South Berwick issue was the quantity of labor and decisions to be made in preparing the two houses and organizing the moves.

Loulie: Louisa Loring Dresel. Key to Correspondents.

Laura Towne: See notes for Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett of 23 March 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Schlesinger Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Papers of the Ellis Gray Loring family, 1824-1925. Annie Fields letters to Anna Loring Dresel, 1877-1888. A-115, folder 74.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

Saturday morning

[*28 June 1888**]

My darling: I begin to fear you are not getting out of door exercise enough to balance so much brain work and that you will have a more serious ill turn presently —

Please try –

Poor Loulie Dresel* was here all last evening – She has utterly gone to pieces. The only thing to save her I fear is for them to take her back to Germany. I wish the Dr. would say this before it is too late. Her mother too is in a bad way – It would help them both I think.

It is really next week that my darling is to come! I can scarcely believe it –

There is everything to say but no time – except to send my love to all – Perhaps this visit from your grandfather will take the place of the Sunday in Exeter { — } how is this? —

Your A. F.

Notes

1888: This date appears in the cancellation on the envelope associated with this letter.

A penciled note appears up the left margin and into the top left corner of page 1, probably in Jewett's hand: "Pinny with dividends — to be sure!" Pinny is a nickname for Jewett.

Penciled notes also appear on the associated envelope. The handwriting may be Jewett's or Fields's, but is very rough. The notes appear to read: [Dapifer *?*] — from [daps dapis *?*] ^a banquet & feast to bear^ one who brings meat to table {—} a domestic who waits — [Law *?*] a steward of a king or lord.

Presumably, the writer is looking at vocabulary in some language, possibly Latin, in which *dapis* denotes a feast or banquet and *dapifer* a taster. While the definitions are readable, the transcriptions of the words under discussion are very uncertain. If the language is Latin, Fields is the more likely author.

Loulie Dresel: Louisa Dresel. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_011_01.

Mattie S. Newman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portion hand-written*]

MISS M. S. NEWMAN,

Florist,

27 A, Beacon St., cor. Bowdoin St.

BOSTON.

_____

FUNERAL DESIGNS ARRANGED IN EVERY STYLE.

LONG STEM FLOWERS A SPECIALTY.

Boston ____"88*

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett

I have taken the liberty of again sending my Album to you* if Miss Thomas* has not yet left you I shall be much pleased if she will give me an Autograph.

Will you kindly accept the accompanying flowers

with love of

Yours truly

Mattie S. Newman

Notes

1888: Lacking more information, I have arbitrarily placed this letter at mid-year.

In the folder with this letter is an envelope, without postage or cancellation, addressed to Jewett at 148 Charles St. The return address is identical to the letterhead that is appears to be rubber-stamped diagonally in the upper left corner of the page.

Newman (d. 23 September 1919) operated her florist business in Boston for 28 years before retiring to Colorado. See *American Florist* 53 (18 October 1919), 688, and Find a Grave.

you: Newman has not divided her sentences at this point.

Thomas: Probably this is Edith Matilda Thomas. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 164. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

South Berwick

Sunday July First [*1888*]*

My dear S.W.

I wish to see you very much and I am equal to begging for a nice letter | in a large envelope |* but I also wish to tell you that I was sorry that I sent you that last letter which wrote itself and would go off in the post bag

[*Page 2*]

quite against my better [judgment *corrected*]. This is a word to ask you to give me Miss Franklin's* address. No, I am <u>not</u> always wanting it! but I shall have a note to send to her presently and all sense of Charlestown locality is blurred in my Sunday memory.

[*Page 3*]

It has been a delightful country Sunday with a fresh breeze and little brown elm-seeds blowing in at every window and all my fat robins hopping in the green grass where they look just like the robins I knew when I was a baby.

And tomorrow afternoon comes A.F.* for a good

[*Page 4*]

bit of a visit . . . I was in town one day this last week and tried to find you but there was no use going up to your turret chamber that day. I have at last seen the Richardson book* and I dont wonder at your — well, <u>I</u> would have left wigs on the green, and I can imagine what the title page looked like at first. It is a beautiful book [*deleted word*], and I treasure the memory of that little

[*Up the left margin and then down the top margin of page 1*]

scene in the studio. Good-night and just write the address or as near as you can get to it on a post card.

yours most lovingly

S. O. J.

Notes

1888: This date is based upon the high probability that Jewett refers to Whitman's book design work for *Henry Hobson Richardson & his Works* (1888). Furthermore, July 1 fell on a Sunday in 1888.

envelope: Jewett appears, uncharacteristically, to have written in the two vertical lines where she would usually use m-dashes.

Miss Franklin: Probably this is Miss Elizabeth Franklin, who was a member of Whitman's Bible class and one of her correspondents. See Sarah Wyman Whitman, *Letters* (1907). Further information about her has not yet been discovered.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Richardson book: It seems likely that Jewett refers to Whitman's design for *Henry Hobson Richardson & his Works*, (1888) by Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer. Richardson (1838-1886) was a prominent American architect. One of his major designs was for Trinity Church, Boston, which Jewett and Whitman often attended.

Jewett's comments suggest that Whitman's design ideas for the book were altered in ways she thought unfortunate. What Jewett means by "wigs on the green" is problematic in part because the transcription of "wigs" is uncertain. It may be relevant that the cover and spine use the colors cream and green.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University,

Cambridge. MA: Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904, recipient. 25 letters; 1892-[1900] & [n.d.]. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (126).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Jackson Garrison

South Berwick Maine

6 July 1888

Dear Mr. Garrison

Will you please send me a cheque for $50. (fifty dollars) on my copyright account? And can you give me some idea how Folly Island* is going? —

[*Page 2*]

Also, I wish to know the price of the cloth edition of the British Poets* —

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

In the upper right corner of page 1, underlined and in another hand: "Sarah O. Jewett".

Folly Island: Jewett's story collection, *The King of Folly Island*, appeared in 1888.

the British Poets: Probably, Jewett refers to the Houghton anthology, *Victorian Poets* (1887), by Edmund Clarence Stedman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Adams Davenport Claflin

Manchester by the Sea

Eighth of July

[*1888*]

My dear Adams [D. Claflin *added in brackets by another hand*]

I wish to tell you how glad I was to hear of your engagement* and to send you my best wishes for your best happiness. I hope that the years will grow brighter and brighter

[*Page 2*]

as you go on — I hope that I shall see you some day when we can talk instead of trying clumsily to say things with pen and ink. But believe me always and sincerely your friend

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

engagement: Adams Claflin Davenport was a son of Mary Bucklin Davenport and William Claflin. Key to Correspondents. He married Agnes M. Walker (1870-1910) on October 30, 1888. See *Who's Who in New England* v. 2 (1915) p. 237.

With this letter is an envelope cancelled 3 October 1888, and addressed to Mrs. Charles Ellis. Almost certainly this envelope does not really belong with this letter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

David Douglas to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin Letterhead*

Underlined portion filled in by hand.]

DAVID DOUGLAS

PUBLISHER

15^{A} Castle Street

Edinburgh July 9 1888

[*End Letterhead*]

My dear Mrs Fields

Make whatever use you please of the portrait of "Pet Marjorie"* & welcome. I wish I had anything more to give regarding the child. Thank you for calling my attention to Mifs Jewetts story "Miss Tempy's Watchers{.}" I read it in a magazine with great interest [many *?*] months ago without knowing who wrote it. I shall now read it again in the volume which

[*Page 2*]

the author kindly sent me. I [am due *?*] her a letter which shall be sent very soon.

As you like these touches of [a *?*] vanished land, I send you these trifles which Dr Brown intended to illustrate his paper [on *?*] John [Leech *?*] — but never carried out his intentions beyond his wondrous verbal criticism & illustrations — as we looked at them together — I said to him one day "What shall we do in the other world with^out^ [*unrecognized word* John *?*] ?" As quick as thought came the reply

[*Page 3*]

"We shall be with [the / his maker *?*]! — so be it.

Thanks for your letter — write me when you have anything to say or ask me. [It is very *?*] pleasant to exchange thoughts.

[Yours *?*

unrecognized word]

David Douglas

Notes

"Pet Marjorie": "Pet Marjorie"or "Marjorie Fleming: a Sketch" (1863) is an essay by Scottish author and physician, Dr. John Brown (1810-1882). Fleming (1803-1811) was a Scottish child writer and poet.

Mifs Jewett's: Sarah Orne Jewett. Her story, "Miss Tempy's Watchers" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in March 1888, and was collected in *The King of Folly Island* in the same year.

John Leech: This transcription is very uncertain. My guess is based upon Brown having written an appreciation of the English caricaturist, John Leech (1817-1864), *John Leech and Other Papers* (1882).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda, Box 16: mss FI 5637.

Azariah Smith to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions filled by hand*]

Editorial Office, 4 Park St.	HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO, Publishers	New York Office, 11 E. 17th St.

Boston, July 13, 1888.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mifs Jewett, —

I send herewith a handful of notices of your last book* and will not trouble you to return them. We have duplicates of the best for advertising use.

I congratulate you that the tone of all the notices is so pleasant, and only regret that none of them do justice to the charming book.

Yours sincerely

Azariah Smith

Notes

book: Jewett's latest book at this time was *The King of Folly Island* (1888).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 200. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett

Jungfraublick Hotel.

Near Interlaken.*

July 21, 1888

My dear S. O. J.

You cannot imagine how delightful it was to get your letter & the book;* it is n't a "booky" this time, is it? And it was a surprise too, because I thought you told me it was not to come out till the Autumn. You have had a busy Spring: — Moving,* & a new book, & several thousand things that I know about. I hope now you are getting rest & enjoyment somewhere together with Mrs. Fields.* Our news from home has been rather meagre, so your letter was welcome in many ways — it has gone just now to pay a short visit to Marianne,* and to answer properly I should wait till it comes back, but there being so many things to tell you, it seems prudent to make a beginning. So much seems to have happened to me since Dresden & my letter to you. Not so much places, as people. It has only been Pyrmont,* & Frankfurt, & Interlaken, but

[*Page 2*]

that meant Marianne (& other exciting rencontre* in Pyrmont, of which later) & Aunt Hermine,* & family again, & my Swiss friend, beside assorted relations, sprinkled along at intervals — Now life is quiet & serene, & I am here with parents & Ellie,* & it rains all the time, with short pauses, in which I go off sketching, & always get caught in showers! This is my life — & now you will like to hear that Mamma is very much better for her cure. Nearly where she was before last winter, & seeming quite lively & cheerful, & delighted to be among her beloved Swiss mountains. Papa has found a piano, of Swiss origin, & the familiar sounds of Bach reach me through the ceiling, his room being above ours. Also being [enterprizing *so spelled*] to a high degree, he has discovered that a little village-church, half an hour from here, has a new & very fine organ. Like Columbus,* no difficulties appalled him — & he even bearded the lion in his den — the conductor of the "Kurhaus"* brass-band, as he stood in his ["Pavillon" *so spelled*] surrounded by his orchestra. This gentleman considers himself quite the lion of Interlaken,

[*Page 3*]

& when papa* persuaded him to show him the new organ at "Gsteig",* he "roared" at first very loud indeed. You see he thought papa was quite an ignorant wild-American amateur, & so he performed many imposing feats, thunderstorm on

the high Alps! & cow-bells & "godling"? & then condescendingly invited papa to try it a little. Papa played a Mendelssohn* Sonata or something, & the great local celebrity collapsed utterly, & quite refused to touch the keys again, & changed his roar to a most apologetic & meek behavior — & papa gained his point, a permission to play the organ six days in the week! So he trots off every day or two, & borrows the keys & a boy to pump the bellows from the sexton, & has long confidential conversations with the village-parson, & I have no doubt creates quite a breeze in the quaint little mountain-village. It has a covered bridge & a mountain-river foaming away under it, & picturesque châlets, not quite so spick & span but quite as unreal as the musical-boxes & ink-stands in the shop-windows! The little church stands on a slope just above the village-inn,

[*Page 4*]

and has an old half-ruined bell-tower with ivy & bushes growing on it, & there is a graveyard around it that runs a little way up the slope of the mountain behind, with its graves each like a little garden of old-fashioned posies, & the touching little crosses of wood over each one, with wreaths of dried flowers, or painted tin, or colored bead ones! — not very aesthetic you see, but all very bright & gay, not at all like the severe granite-slabs of New England —

My Swiss friend Mathilde de Chambrier* has been staying with us. The fortnight she was to be with us here unhappily dwindled down to four days, but we tried to put a fortnight's worth into them & in some ways succeeded{.}

It was rather a painful & exciting meeting to me — I think she only felt relief or pleasure, & certainly was touchingly grateful for our attempts to make her visit a pleasant one, & at last perfectly broken-hearted to leave us.

Poor child, she is passing through dark days — of which her mother's death is not the deepest shadow. One night she poured out her whole heart to me, and it was indeed a tragical

[*Page 5*]

revelation, of passion & hopeless longing for "something else",* & discontent with self & others —

— It seems so sad she should just choose me, & have such a [piteous *?*] conviction that I can help her. — she is just beginning to ask [miracles *?*] of life, without understanding that the answer lies only in herself — I think it is something {like} the state of mind I was in two years ago, & when I remember how good & dear you were to me, & how much some long talks we had helped & encouraged me, I wish that you could be her friend too — while I seem to myself quite unequal to fill the place that she has put me in, or with all the love & sympathy I feel for her, to ever really help or comfort in any way.

Still, if it seems sent to me — not to anyone else, I must try — She is such a superb creature — I wish you could see her & put her in a story; imagine a Greek goddess come to life and animated with very human failings & charms — she is a little over life-size, otherwise the beauty would be perfect —, the features are nearly perfect, & the eyes superb, & though so

[*Page 6*]

very tall every movement is perfect grace, and every attitude a picture. — There is an almost painful intensity of expression in her face, & I have never seen a sadder look in any being's eyes than hers wear at times. She is capable of so much enjoyment, having such a rare sense of fun & love for the comical view of things, & seems beside, with her rare beauty, so much a creature one instinctively would wish to shield from all pain & trouble, that it seems doubly hard to see how hard life has been to her, & foresee the suffering she must still pass through before self is at peace. — It is such a lonely, cold life for her — & I cannot see that outwardly it can ever be any better for her. Is it not hard to stand helpless before such a problem, & remember that we all have to fight our own battles — & how very little all the wishes & goodwill of others can do. — I remember your talking about this once, but it is not clear to me — Whenever I think of it, the two sides rise up before me & fight together; one minute it seems everything, the next nothing ~~enough philosophy for the present however~~ ^ I mean what one is able to do for another — do you understand at all?^

[*Page 7*]

Mathilde de C. is very musical, & it was bliss to her to hear papa play — He gave very original evening-concerts to us up in his bed-room, on the bad little Swiss piano, & one day in spite of pouring rain, we all drove to "Gsteig" & he played the organ to us for two hours or more. — The picturesque church is very severely Puritanical inside, white-washed walls & such hard benches, not even a cushion for the Minister — however to the hardy race of Swiss mountaineers perhaps they are not such a penance after all. Papa had a little boy to pump the bellows, & my friends to turn the pages, & while the rain came down in torrents outside, & heavy mists veiled the [mountain *corrected*], he forgot the world, & nearly lifted the roof off with Bach fugues — Mamma & I retreated to the furthest end of the little church, and I even sought refuge in the pulpit! I cannot understand a musician's ecstacy at the volume of sound — I enjoy chorals, & soft accompaniments, but fled before this overwhelming storm of music. Later he calmed down, & I sat in the organ-loft, charmed

not alone by Mendelssohn strains, but by the poetry of the scene — the light streaming in through the

[*Page 8*]

tall window, the two figures dark against it, the musician intent & eager at the organ, & beside him the girl's tall graceful figure, the light on her fair hair, her black dress & dreamy face, & statuesque pose with back against the organ, completed a picture which needed another artist's pencil than mine, even had I had my sketch-book with me. My friend is much like one of du Maurier's* beautiful women, the air & grace, & the same fault of being unnaturally tall!

- July 25. —

The weather has been so uncommonly & persistently rainy, that sketching has prospered but little — only two watercolors since I have been here, one a heroic effort, not crowned with deserved success! The other, a picturesque corner of a châlet, covered with vines, under a soft rainy sky, gives more the idea & feeling of time & place. I believe you know this region well, & know what a drive to Lauterbrunnen means, without further description. Ellis has gone today with a friend to Grindelwald.* Unhappily his cure seems to have done him but little good, & he seems ill & nervous; it is indeed discouraging,

[*Page 9*]

& the poor boy seems depressed & unlike himself, which it makes mamma quite miserable to see him looking so pale, & thinner than ever Principally for his sake, we are going to try higher air & tomorrow leave here for the Rigi.* We are going to the hotel where I stayed two years ago, as our friends Mrs. Lehmann & her daughters* are there for a week or so. I hope after they leave, we shall find a high place where my pencil finds more to do — the Rigi is rather too civilized, beside presenting nature too much as a bird's-eye-view! There is a valley on the top of the Gotthard that fills my soul with yearning, & I have written to an artist-friend for information; so you may imagine us probably there in August. In September we are thinking of going to the Austrian Tyrol, having had a cordial invitation from old friends of mammas who have a "villa" on a lovely lake, near Salzburg, or not far from it I believe. The region is said to be wildly picturesque, & the peasants all wear orthodox Tyrolean costume, bare knees & spikey shoes! Marianne & I cherish hopes of meeting there, her parents meditate a journey to the Tyrol

[*Page 10*]

in the autumn, & I think she will be able to influence the direction! Then we plan a return to Dresden by way of Munich, where the International Picture Exhibition is a great magnet to us both. We expect to be in Dresden by Oct. 1st at latest. Papa in the mean time is distracting himself & us by talking of steamers for Nov. 1st, having recovered the use of his arm, Bach Club & Beacon St. Organ are calling to him so entrancingly that he seems ready to desert family & fatherland for the sake of a solitary winter in their company! He is going through the agonies of making up his mind — just now, — & being in love with the Gsteig organ at present he is not even going the Rigi with us, but we leave him behind, with his bad little piano & music ms., to flirt with the "Jungfrau" from his window! —

Mrs. Fields will like to hear that Mamma seems very well now, — the Carlsbad cure having worked wonders — The foot is still lame, but she can take little walks, & in other respects is where she was before the long illness; principally she seems bright & cheerful & able to enjoy the beauties around her —

[*Page 11*]

I must tell you that we both love your new story! All the others were old friends to me, but not the less welcome for that; I have been loving them all over again, & now the book is going to Marianne for a while. But the "Village Shop" is really one of the very best.* Don't people think so? Don't you? That intolerable & yet entirely amiable bookworm is to me a wonderful creation. I have known him, in a previous state of existence, if not in this one! The contrast between brother & sister is so perfect & consistent all through. The whole story is remarkably satisfactory. Your things always satisfy me in one way, in the best way; — but as a work of art this one seems to me particularly [satisfactory *corrected*], it is just what it ought to be in every way — & more I can't say, to tell you the pleasure it gave me. — Only one thing, is it not a little hard that you leave the reader to imagine the reconciliation between Nelly & Miss Jaffrey? I felt rather abused to be deprived of that, but if you say it is better so, I will try to be reconciled! —

[*Page 12*]

Your letter was so nice — & your tale of "poor dear"* enchanted me; could n't you put him in a story? — I mean to write to you again, to really answer your letter, & tell you about Pyrmont & Marianne, (who is back in Leipzig, & quite well & lively, thank you) but now it seems better to send this rather disjointed beginning off, as it may be some time before I have a good writing-time. I am going in for frivolity & Bessie Lehmann's society on the Rigi, & till we are on some mountain-top in a howling storm, letters will have to wait.

— It has turned out such a warm day that I quite envy Ellis inside the Grindelwald glacier! As a less cool thing to do, I must now pack my trunk — the penalty of travelling, & a severe one, I think.

Mamma sends dearest love to you & to Mrs. Fields, — please give her mine, too. When you are not at all very busy (does that ever happen?) will you write to me again? It seems greedy to ask for "more"so soon, but you hardly know what a pleasure your letters are to me.

With dear love & thanks for everything,

yours always Loulie.

[*Down from the left in the top margin of page 1*]

I think I have repeated myself several times — which excuse this letter having been written in scraps at different times. A fellow-pupil of Ross Turner's* class turned up here, & we have been going sketching together.

Notes

Interlaken: In the Alps of Switzerland

book: Jewett presumably has sent Dresel a copy of *The King of Folly Island* (1888). Her story, "The Village Shop," appeared for the first time in this volume.

Moving: In *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Paula Blanchard notes that in the spring of 1888, Jewett and her sister, Mary, moved from the house in which they had grown up into the original family home next door at the corner of Portland and Main in South Berwick, ME (p. 193).

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Marianne: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Pyrmont: Bad Pyrmont, a popular German resort and spa.

rencontre: French. Meeting.

Hermine: Hermine Dresel (1814-89) was the half-sister of Otto Dresel, Lousia's father. She married F. Louis Bolongaro-Crevenna, a businessman in Frankfurt, Germany.

Ellie: Dresel's younger brother, Ellis.

Kurhaus: Sanitarium.

papa: Dresel seems usually not to capitalize this word.

Gsteig: Gsteig bei Gstaad is a village near Interlaken, Switzerland.

godling: Though it seems this is what Dresel has written, her usage here seems puzzling. Does she mean that the man behaved like a local god?

Mendelssohn: Jakob Ludwig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847), better known as Felix Mendelssohn was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor.

Mathilde de Chambrier: Little has yet been learned about this person. It is possible that her father was the historian James de Chambrier (1830-1920). A death notice in a Neuchâtel, Switzerland newspaper lists the family of Madame Robert de Chambrier (Blanche Chabaud-Latour) after her death on 19 June 1918. It suggests at least that the following may be siblings of Robert: Henry, Mathilde, and Geneviève. Whether James is their father has not been established, nor is their mother known, though it seems clear that she died probably in 1888 or 1887.

"something else": The use of quotation marks suggests that Dresel alludes to Jewett's *A Country Doctor* (1884), in which Nan Prince's desire to follow the vocation of medicine manifests itself at first as "a longing for the Great Something Else."

du Maurier's: Wikipedia says: "George Louis Palmella Busson du Maurier (1834 -8 October 1896) was a Franco-British cartoonist and author, known for his drawings in Punch and for his novel *Trilby*."

Lauterbrunnen ... Grindelwald: Lauterbrunnen and Grindelwald are picturesque alpine villages near Interlaken.

Rigi: "The Rigi (or Mount Rigi; also known as Queen of the Mountains) is a mountain massif of the Alps, located in Central Switzerland. The whole massif is almost entirely surrounded by three different water bodies: Lake Lucerne, Lake Zug and Lake Lauerz."

Mrs. Lehmann & her daughters: A daughter, Bessie, is named later in the letter. These people remain unidentified.

best: Dresel places her opening quotation mark for the story title in the subscript position. This sentence ends with a question mark, the upper portion of which is deleted to change it to a period.

"poor dear": The person was the model for Captain Tilly, a character in the book version of *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896), "Along Shore."

Ross Turner's: Ross Sterling Turner (1847-1915) was an American painter, water-colorist, and illustrator in the Boston area.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

David Douglas to Sarah Orne Jewett

David Douglas

[*Begin letterhead, underlined text filled in by hand*]

DAVID DOUGLAS

PUBLISHER

15A Castle Street

Edinburgh July 21 1888

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Madam

Your letter of the 9th has just reached me and I have much pleasure in begging you to accept for your own library a complete set of Dr Browns papers as revised by himself in 1882 & containing two or three additional papers in the 3d series — particularly 'Something about a Well' — which I included in 1884. He had just finished the [perusal *?*] of the first series 'Locke & Sydenham'

[*Page 2*]

and written the Preface (April 12/82) when he died early in May before seeing the printed volume. You may judge of my feelings on reading page 468 after he had left us. —

I have great pleasure in sending Mrs Fields* a print of Pet Marjorie* as well as some illustrations of child life by a genius, [Warwick Brookes *?*]* of Manchester — I remember well [our *?*] & Mrs Fields visit to Edin & of the evening we all spent in the drawing room of Rutland St. Much has come & gone since that evening. Pray,

[*Page 3*]

make my respectful compliments to her. I often think of the four days I spent with her husband at that time & our walks & talks.

Please accept a set of these child illustrations for yourself & as you seem to appreciate Dr Browns character & works, I enclose a couple of scraps such as he used to dash off in a minute & leave on my writing table if I happened to be absent.

I trust you will

[*Page 4*]

not think me forward if I thank you for the pleasure I have experienced in reading some of your books more particularly Deephaven & a Country Doctor,* but I intend to read them all which I am the more easily enabled to do as my good friend Mr Houghton* sent me a set some little time ago. I take shame to myself for not having done so sooner — but I daresay you can imagine how time runs away from a bookseller fond of books. I am my dear madam

Yours [*perhaps 2 unrecognized words*]

Notes

Brown's: Scottish author and physician, Dr. John Brown (1810-1882). See Wikipedia. He lived on Rutland Street in Edinburgh.

His essay "Marjorie Fleming: a Sketch" often called "Pet Marjorie," appeared in 1863.

"Something about a Well" was collected in *John Leech and Other Papers* (1884), published by David Douglas.

Locke and Sydenham with Other Occasional Papers appeared in 1858.

Mrs Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Brookes: This transcription is uncertain, but it seems likely this is British artist Warwick Brookes (1808-1882), who specialized in drawing children.

Deephaven & a Country Doctor: Two Jewett novels, *Deephaven* (1877) and *A Country Doctor* (1884).

Houghton: Henry Oscar Houghton. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Douglas, David, 1823-1916. 5 letters; 1888-1906, bMS Am 1743 (48).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Centre Harbor N.H.

7/23 1888

My dear friend

I am here for this week at least. The new Senter House, is admirably arranged & kept, and the lake & the hills are beautiful as ever. Could not thee and dear Sarah*, run up here, some day this week, and spend a night at least here? You could take the cars to Rochester, and then take the train for Alton Bay and reach here at 2 p.m. My cousins the Cartlands* are with me. You do not know how glad I should be to see you. Do come if possible. The years

[*Page 2*]

speed on: it will soon be too late. I long to look on your dear faces once more.

Ever affectionately

thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Cartlands: Gertrude and Joseph Cartland. See above "Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4845.

Sarah Orne Jewett to George Bainton

South Berwick Maine

6 August 1888

Dear Sir

I meant to send you M^r^ Whittier's* autograph at once, but I found it a difficult matter to look over, (at least to get time to look over) his letters, and it has been still more difficult to find one that I am willing to part with —

This is a good signature but not a very interesting note. I am sure that you will understand that his longer and more personal letters are very dear to all his friends —

[*Page 2*]

But I send you a ^note^ ~~signature~~ of Mr. Howells's* and one of Rev^d^ Edward E. Hale's* whom you will know best as author of A Man Without a Country — If I were in town I could make this a very interesting little handful. As it is, I am sorry to have been so long in keeping my promise — with many thanks for your kind note

pray believe me

yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

^To the^ Rev^d^ George Bainton

Coventry

Notes

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. See Bainton to Jewett of 3 May 1888.

Howells's: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Hale's: Edward Everett Hale. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections; Cairns Collection of American Women Writers, Comprehensive collection of works by Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to an Unknown Recipient*

South Berwick Maine

14 August 1888

Dear Madam

I am sorry that I have no photographs now but I will try to send one for the purpose you describe. [*deleted sentence*] As for the facts about my early literary work, you will find in a file of Every Other Saturday* — a fortnightly story paper which was published in Boston a few years ago, or in the biographical file of

[*Page 2*]

the Boston Herald more material ~~of~~ than I have time to write out today — I dare say that there are other things in print, but I cannot ~~recall~~ ^tell you where to find^ them — I am an old contributor to the Atlantic now for my first story was written for it when I was but nineteen. Most of Deephaven* was written within the next two or three years, though it did not come out in book form until later — I dare say

[*Page 3*]

that what people like in it (and it has brought me many pleasant friends) is that it looks at life from a young girl's point of view — —— I have always had my home in South Berwick where I was born, and still live in a very old house built in the colonial times. I spend my winters in Boston however. Pray pardon this hurried note and believe me

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Recipient: As of this writing, no publication has been discovered that seems very likely to be the one for which Jewett writes this letter. In *Maine Stream: A Bibliographical Reception Study of Sarah Orne Jewett*, Kathrine Aydelott located two pieces from 1889 that could have resulted from this letter, though they appear more than a year later. An anonymous biographical sketch was in *Book News* ((Philadelphia, PA). 7 (Aug 1889), pp. 361-62. Edward Bok's "Literary Leaves" was in *Ladies Home Journal* VI:9 (Aug 1889), p. 11. As *LHJ* editor, Bok may have had a woman gathering materials for his piece.

Every Other Saturday: Jewett refers to a biographical sketch that appeared in this publication on 5 December 1884.

Deephaven: Jewett's 1877 novel. Jewett's first *Atlantic* story was "Mr. Bruce" (December 1869).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections

MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

31 August — 1888

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co **—**

Please send me three copies of Mrs. Thaxter's Among the Isles of Shoals by mail or American Express this afternoon if possible.

S. O. Jewett

Notes

In the upper left corner of the page is a Houghton, Mifflin date stamp reading 31 August 1888. At the bottom left in a different hand are the initials "F.J.G." for Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Thaxter's Among the Isles of Shoals: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents. Her book, *Among the Isles of Shoals* appeared in 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Friday —

[*August / September 1888*]*

My dear Friend

Your package came today [*deletion*] and I must thank you first for your dear note and then for something so touching that I cant be grateful enough — Poor Miss Folly!* I never shall forget her; — few persons or things have ever made so deep an impression on me though I only saw her once

[*Page 2*]

in her latest years — I have not had time to more than glance at these memorials, but is not the letter that came with them a charming one? — You are so kind to me — it makes the relationship we sometimes have talked of half laughingly a very real one, and draws me very close to you all the time — I really

[*Page 3*]

belong to you more lovingly every year, and it makes me truly feel like "the little girl" to be so tenderly thought of, and remembered in so many lovely ways — This has come so close to my birthday that I like to connect the worn letters and your thoughts and the day all together —

= We talk every day about the First day

[*Page 4*]

afternoon and how much we enjoyed being with you. Mrs. Lodge* has been here for a day or two — so sweet and bright and kind — and there has been a great gossiping about the Associated Charities* [*deletion*] not to speak of lesser subjects — I must say goodbye — but we both send love to you

Yours affectionately

Sarah —

Notes

August / September 1888: Jewett specifies that the time is near her birthday, which was 2 September. The year is a guess. Probably the letter is from 1883 or later, but not later than about 1888 when Mary Lodge became ill before her death in December 1889. I have arbitrarily chosen 1888, though 1887 also would be a good guess. After Jewett's December 1886 story, "The King of Folly Island," and while Lodge was comparatively healthy would be a good period for Whittier to run across and share with Jewett the story of "Miss Folly," whatever that is.

Penciled in another hand in the left margin of page 4: "S. O. Jewett".

Miss Folly: This person has not yet been identified. Jewett's readers are likely to connect her with Phebe, the young woman in Jewett's story, "The King of Folly Island" (1886).

Mrs. Lodge: Mary Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

Associated Charities: Lodge and Annie Adams Fields were deeply involved with the Associated Charities of Boston. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 12 letters to unidentified persons; [n.d.]. Box:12 identifier: MS Am 1844, (8616).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Friday night

[*1888*]*

Dear darling Fuff

A comed-home Pinny and a very glad one to hear again from her dear Fuff — X I have read most of the nice letters and enjoyed them so much while I sat by the light, talking and listening by turns — Now I have stolen into the office for a word —

[*Page 2*]

(It is all so interesting about Mrs. Moore* —) and here* is Eldress Harriet* who has given up the things of this world and can say stoutly at her letter's end that they, can "hold on fast by God," as the old version of the Psalms* has it — [*unrecognized, possibly deleted word that Fields has read as* through] their Shaker faith!* And dear Mrs. Stowe,* with her new suggestion for my

[*Page 3*]

happiness, standing ready like a switchman at the division by the rails — (a travelled Pinny ladies!) — How sweet her letters are though — hers to you most lovely, for it says all we felt and knew she thought that evening.

I am so glad about Manchester and I will be there rain or shine. I will bring the Wide Awake for you

[*Page 4*]

to read Mrs Whitman's first paper* which is amazingly good and satisfactory, a thing to get by heart. I am so glad she did it. (I love your sonnet dearest Fuff. I want you to read it to me with your own dear voice —)*

— It was most beautiful among the hills today but my head began to ache a good deal this last day or two with so much jolting — and I am going

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

to bed early. God bless you dearest.

Your own

Pin —

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 4*]

We never read your Wide Awake paper* {—} how could I forget that?

Notes

1888: Dating this letter has proven very difficult. This date is based upon Fields's own note on the upper right of page 1, which dates the letter from 1888. In that year Fields published two pieces in *Wide Awake* magazine. It is problematic, however, that Jewett says she will bring Fields an issue of *Wide Awake* with a piece by Sarah Wyman Whitman, for her only known *Wide Awake* work from near this time was the series of essays on "The Making of Pictures," which appeared in 1884. I am speculating that Jewett is bringing Fields a back issue, not a recent one.

Jewett is not known to have had interactions with Shakers until the 1890s; however Fields's interest in and relations with Shakers began much earlier, as reflected in her poem, *The Children of Lebanon* (1872).

It seems likely, at least, that this letter comes from the period of 1884-1888.

X: Fields has penciled in this X, presumably to mark the beginning of the passage she includes in her 1911 collection of Jewett's letters.

Mrs. Moore: This person has not been identified.

here: Fields has penciled in the parenthesis marks that set off material she omitted in her transcription (see below), and she has altered the following passage to read: "~~and~~ ^t^here is ..."

Eldress Harriet: Jewett maintained a friendship with the Shaker community at Alfred, Maine. Founded in England in the eighteenth century, "the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, also known as the Millennial Church, or the Alethians, came to be called Shakers because of the trembling induced in them by their religious fervor." Under the leadership of Mother Ann Lee the sometimes persecuted Shakers set up communal villages in the United States, beginning in 1776. (Source: *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*).

In photographs of residents at the Alfred Maine Shaker village in the 1890s, at Maine History Online, appear Eldress Harriet Goodwin (1823-1903) and Eldress Harriett Newell Coolbroth (1864-1953). It is not clear to which woman Jewett refers. On Coolbroth see *Historical Dictionary of the Shakers* (2008), by Stephen J. Paterwic, pp. 48-9.

Psalms: While these exact words do not appear in the King James Psalms, the idea appears in Psalms 119:31-2: "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes."

Mrs. Stowe: Harriet Beecher Stowe. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs Whitman's first paper: This may be the first in a series of papers Sarah Wyman Whitman (See Key to Correspondents) published in *Wide Awake,* (volumes 19 and 20, 1884), "The Making of Pictures." The series eventually extended to 8 parts on topics such as materials, models, oils, water color, etching, and engraving,

dear voice: The parenthesis marks around this passage were penciled in by Annie Fields. Fields published a number of sonnets in the late 1880s, several of which appeared in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). Whether the sonnet Jewett refers to was published is unknown. Early in 1889, "Song" appeared in *Harper's* (April) and "Not Strand but Sea" appeared in *Scribner's* (May). No

Fields sonnet is known to have been published in 1888.

your Wide Awake paper: Fields published "A Helping Hand" in *Wide Awake* (August 1888).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

This passage appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 40.

I have read most of the nice letters and enjoyed them so much while I sat by the light, talking and listening by turns. Now I have stolen into the office for a word. Here is Eldress Harriet, who has given up the things of this world and can say stoutly at her letter's end that they, can "hold on fast by God," as the old version of the Psalms has it, through their Shaker faith! And dear Mrs. Stowe, with her new suggestion for my happiness, standing ready like a switchman at the division by the rails. How sweet her letters are, though, — hers to you most lovely, for it says all we felt, and knew she thought that evening.

William Cranston Lawton* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Sept. 5th 1888.

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Miss Jewett,

My chief object in sending you this circular is to ask betimes the privilege of inviting you as my guest this winter, to hear the readings which you subscribed for, but, — I think — did not hear, last year. It was a disappointment to me, then, that I could not offer you the one poor return in my power for many hours of the purest enjoyment. I regard your work as the most thoroughly healthful with which I am acquainted. You seem to me to be pointing the way, almost alone, in the only right direction. To teach us to see familiar things truly, to see

[*Page 2*]

the deeper meaning, the real pathos of what we hastily call commonplace, is just my idea of the true function of literature, and of art generally. So far as we describe truly, we must describe the only people and things we really know: those just about us; and even a troubadour or a [knighterrant *so it appears*] must have been entirely realistic and commonplace to himself and his intimate associates. The characters of "historical novels" are merely ^puppets in^ fantastical draperies. Whatever life they have must be infused into them from the artist's living environment.

Perhaps you will think my practice very far from such preaching — but I am not in literature at all as a creative artist, but merely as a pedagogue, — and [the *corrected*] moral which I insist on drawing even from Euripides is Longfellow's:

"That is best which lieth nearest;

"Shape of that thy work of art!"

Very Truly Yours,

Wm. C. Lawton.

[*Page 3, a typed/printed circular**]

WILLIAM CRANSTON LAWTON desires to arrange for courses of readings from Greek authors during the season 1888-9, such as were given by him in Boston, at Wellesley College, etc., last winter.

Besides his course of six readings, which includes an original metrical version of three dramas of Euripides, Mr, Lawton is preparing a similar course from Aeschylus.* The plays are read with full explanations and comment.

Mr. Lawton also desires to form classes, especially in Boston, for a more extended and less formal general course of readings from the chief Greek authors, in the standard English translations, with opportunity for inquiry and discussion.

Mr. Lawton refers to the chief educators and classical teachers of Boston, Cambridge and Wellesley.

Address

WM. C. LAWTON,

Cambridge, Mass.

August, 1888.

Notes

Lawton: William Cranston Lawton (1853-1941) was an American author and educator. He became professor of Greek language and literature at Adelphi College, Brooklyn, NY (1895-1907). Wikipedia.

Euripides ... Longfellow's: Greek dramatist, Euripides (c. 480 - c. 406 BC). Wikipedia.

America poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Key to Correspondents.

Lawton quotes with slight variation from Longfellow's "Gaspar Becerra":

O thou sculptor, painter, poet!
Take this lesson to thy heart;
That is best which lieth nearest;

Shape from that thy work of art.

Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1859), p. 217).

circular: This document is a folded sheet with the circular on the right half of one side (the front). The letter is written on right half of the back of the circular and on the left half of the front.

Aeschylus: Greek dramatist, Aeschylus (c. 525 - c. 456 BC).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 132 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury. 9/12. 1888*

My dear Friend

I read thy very kind letter, and thanked thee in my heart for it. I hoped to call on thee on my return, but a cold disappointed me and compelled me to go [directly *?*] home. I find my limitations increase with my years, and it grows more and

[*Page 2*]

{ more } difficult to do as I wish.

I had, on the whole a pleasant summer, though* we suffered [rather *?*] more from the cold than the heat, and the earth was, most of the time, a "moist body" like Mantalini's* and we couldn't lie on it with [impunity *?*]. But it was fresh and green as if the summer were one long June. We were 3 weeks at the [Larla House *?*] and 4 at the Sturtevant farm*

[*Page 3*]

[farm *repeated*] on the south side of Asquam Lake, on a hill 1000 feet above the sea level. We had with us, all or a part of the time, Mr. & Mfs [*deleted word*] Wade of N.Y., Chaplin Rawson of the US Navy & wife, Endicott Peabody of Salem, Mr Atwood an Episcopal clergyman from Providence RI, Mr Evarts son of Senator Evarts, a Quaker friend of Gertrude & William's named Potts with two or three Kittens. We [*deleted word*] had plenty of callers. Bishop Littlejohn leading about "Sister Caroline"* of some sort of High Church

[*Page 4*]

order, as St. Paul* said he had a right to do, and scores of other dignitaries [in *?*] Church & State. The best of all was a visit from Gen Armstrong,* who spent 3 weeks on a little island in Lake Asquam, some 300 feet below the hill-top.

The Maine Election has made every body but Democrats & mugwumps* glad. I am [specially *?*] gratified by the reelection of my friend Tom Reed.*

I go to Oak Knoll* this week. I send this to S. Berwick, though thee may be in Boston. Give my devout love to Annie Fields.* It seems very long

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

since I have seen either of you.

most affectionately thy old friend

John G Whittier

Notes

1888: Confirming this date has proven complicated. Whittier reports on the "Maine election" of 1888, which should have taken place on 6 November, at the same time as the U.S. general election. However, Maine was one of the few states that held gubernatorial elections in September *and* elected members of Congress on the same day. This was 10 September 1888.

Mantalini's: Whittier alludes to a character in British novelist Charles Dickens's (1812-1870) *Nickolas Nickleby* (1838-9). Mr. Mantalini complains after his wife calls him cruel for threatening suicide: "She calls me cruel — me — me — who for her sake will become a demd, damp, moist, unpleasant body!"

Larla House ... Sturtevant farm: The transcription of "Larla House" is a very tentative guess. Nothing like this appears in Pickard's biography of Whittier. Often Whittier stayed at the Asquam House on Asquam Lake in New Hampshire during part of his later summers, but what he has written looks nothing like Asquam House.

Sturtevant's farm on Asquam Lake provided Whittier and his friends with a quieter summer residence than was available at resort hotels such as the Asquam House. See Pickard, *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, v. 2, pp. 694-5.

Sister Caroline: From Whittier's list of summer visitors, some have been identified, and others have not.

Not identified: Mr & Mrs Wade of NY and a Quaker friend named Potts,

Chaplin Rawson of the US Navy & wife: It seems likely that Whittier refers to Rev. Edward Kirk Rawson (1846-1934), who was a Navy chaplain (Congregational) in the 1880s, and became a professor of mathematics in the Navy, Superintendent of Navy War Records of the Navy Department, and the author of naval histories. See also: *History of the Chaplain Corps, Part 1*, p. 114. His wife was Eleanor Wade Rawson.

Endicott Peabody of Salem: Rev. Endicott Peabody (1857-1944), an American Episcopal priest, founded the Groton School for boys.

Mr Atwood an Episcopal clergyman from Providence RI: Julius Walter Atwood (1857-1945) was born and educated in Vermont. He served at various churches in New England, and eventually became Bishop of Arizona in 1911.

Mr Evarts son of Senator Evarts: William Maxwell Evarts (1818-1901) served as U.S. Senator from New York (1885-1891). According to Find a Grave, his surviving adult sons in 1888 were: Charles Butler (1845-1891, Allen Wardner (1848-1939), Sherman (1859-1922) and Prescott (1859-1931).

Gertrude & William's: Gertrude and Joseph Cartland. See above "Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents."

The transcription of "William" is uncertain, and which of Whittier's acquaintances he may be is not yet known.

two or three Kittens: The transcription of "Kittens" is uncertain, but mentioning kittens among distinguished visitors would comport with Whittier's humor.

Bishop Littlejohn leading about "Sister Caroline": Abram Newkirk Littlejohn (1824-1901) served as an Episcopal priest in various New England churches before become Bishop of Long Island in 1869.

In a letter dated 31 July 1886, Whittier writes to Annie Fields: "And 'Sister Caroline' who is at the head of some "Order" under Bishop Littlejohn stalks about in her High Church war-paint, quite awful to behold." Sister Caroline (1834-1908) was Head of House at Saint Catherine's Hall, Diocesan School for Girls of Long Island, NY. She entered the Sisterhood of St. John the Evangelist after the death of her husband, Rev. Edgar H. Tallman, in about 1877. See *The Living Church* 34 (21 March 1908) p. 725.

St. Paul ... a right to do: In the Bible, 1 Corinthians 9, St. Paul writes: "Have we not power to eat and to drink? Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?"

Gen Armstrong: General Samuel Chapman Armstrong (1839-1893) was the first principal of the Hampton Institute, now known as Hampton University, founded in 1861 to educate former African American slaves.

Maine Election ... Democrats & mugwumps ... Tom Reed: The Maine election for governor and members of Congress in 1888 took place on 10 September. Republican Edwin C. Burleigh became governor. Republican Thomas B. Reed (1839-1902) was reelected, helping Republicans regain a majority in the House of Representatives.

Mugwump was a label given to Republicans who had switched party in the previous presidential election of 1884, supporting Grover Cleveland because of charges that the Republican candidate in that election was financially corrupt.

Oak Knoll: Whittier's estate at Danvers, MA.

Annie Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-3849.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Willis Boyd Allen

Manchester by the Sea

16th of September [1888]*

My dear Mr. Allen

Your note finds me here, but the book has not yet followed it, and I shall expect to find it waiting for me when I come back after two or three days spent away from the shore.

— I must thank you

[*Page 2*]

for it beforehand — but at any rate such a note as yours is a very great pleasure — If I like the book half as well, it will be a very good "little book" indeed!

— I have not forgotten your kindness while speaking of my own last story-book —

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1888: The circumstantial evidence for dating this letter is thin and, so, this date is tentative. We know that Jewett had in her library a copy of Allen's *Kelp: A Story of the Isles of Shoals* (1888), as evidenced by the first inside page of a Google books copy. And we know that a very positive review of *The King of Folly Island* (1888) appeared in *Cottage Hearth* 14 (August 1888), p. 262. This makes it at least plausible that Allen sent Jewett a copy of *Kelp* and that she was pleased with the review of *The King of Folly Island* and, therefore, that this letter is from September of 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is in the collection of the Miller Library of Colby College, Waterville, ME. Scott Frederick Stoddart's transcription appears in his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah*

Orne Jewett (1988). New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

9/19 1888*

Dearest of friends!

Mrs Claflin, Mrs [Whipple *?*] and Edna Dean Proctor* were here Saturday and told me that thee had been staying all the month at Manchester. I had quite lost sight of thee and Sarah.* I had heard of you up among the

[*Page 2*]

mountains somewhere with Mifs Whitney.* I wish you could have made it on your way to stop at Centre Harbor. We were 3 weeks at the Senter House and four at Sturtevant Farm on the South side of Asquam Lake. Our dear Gen. Armstrong* spent 2 weeks on an island in the lake, and we had

[*Page 3*]

a beautiful call from him & his daughters. Of course, we spoke of thee. Another old friend of dear Fields, Harry Washburn, called on us several times, with his wife. We had at our farm-house, Captain Rawson U S. N. & wife; Rev Mr Atwood and his friend Endicott Peabody of Salem, Mr. Evarts, son of Senator Evarts, & several others.*

Does thee know Mrs Elizabeth Thompson of N.Y.? She wrote me from Stamford Conn. that she is

[*Page 4*]

deeply interested in the Question of Peace & International Arbitration and is desirous of devoting her pecuniary means to that object if some practicable plan of effort can be devised. I wonder if an able paper or periodical might not be one of the first things to establish — But the present scarcely seems a favorable time for Peace, when the President talks of retaliation and Congress seconds him, and the very cod-fish* which hangs in the State House, wags his tail in approval.

Is Sarah Jewett with thee, or at S. Berwick? I have just read her touching

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

story in the Atlantic. She seems as much at home on the Sea-Islands of Carolina* as on the coast of Maine. I hope the summer has been gracious to thee

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

and gives thee strength & happiness. For myself, I am feeling better than I did last year at this time, mainly I think because I have been utterly idle. Ever affectionately

John G Whittier

Notes

1888: At the top of page one in pencil: "2."

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mrs Claflin, Mrs [Whipple ?] *and Edna Dean Proctor*: Whittier maintained a friendship with Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin (see Key to Correspondents.) and her husband, William Claflin, a prominent Republican politician.

The transcription of "Whipple" is uncertain, but Whittier probably refers to Rose Gay Higgins Whipple (1843-1918), wife of the owner of Boston's Young's Hotel, John Reed Whipple (1806-1887). They were friends of Fields and regular guests in her home.

Edna Dean Proctor (1827-1923) was an American poet, born in New Hampshire and at this time residing in the Boston area.

Mifs Whitney: Probably, this is the American sculptor, Anne Whitney (1821-1915). See also Abby Adeline Manning in key to Correspondents.

Gen. Armstrong: Whittier maintained an interest in the Hampton Institute, founded in 1861 to educate former African American slaves, now known as Hampton University. The first principal of the school was General Samuel Chapman Armstrong (1839- 11 May 1893). Key to Correspondents.

several others:

Harry Washburn: This transcription is uncertain, and the couple has not been identified. Possibly, Whittier refers to Henry Stevenson Washburn (1813-1903), a Massachusetts politician and poet, author of "The Vacant Chair," a popular Civil War song. His wife at this time was Luzilla A. Gilman (1841-1890).

Chaplin Rawson of the US Navy & wife: It seems likely that Whittier refers to Rev. Edward Kirk Rawson (1846-1934), who was a chaplain (Congregational) in the navy in the 1880s, and became a professor of mathematics in the Navy, Superintendent of Navy War Records of the Navy Department, and the author of naval histories. See also: *History of the Chaplain Corps, Part 1*, p. 114. His wife was Eleanor Wade Rawson.

Rev. Mr. Atwood: Julius Walter Atwood (1857-1945) was born and educated in Vermont. He served at various churches in New England, and eventually became Bishop of Arizona in 1911.

Endicott Peabody of Salem: Rev. Endicott Peabody (1857-1944), an American Episcopal priest, founded the Groton School for boys.

Mr. Evarts: William Maxwell Evarts (1818-1901) served as U.S. Senator from New York (1885-1891). According to Find a Grave, his surviving adult sons in 1888 were: Charles Butler

(1845-1891, Allen Wardner (1848-1939), Sherman (1859-1922) and Prescott (1859-1931).

Mrs Elizabeth Thompson: Almost certainly, this is Elizabeth Rowell Thompson (1821-1899), an American philanthropist whose interests included abolition of slavery, model working-class communities, and funding scientific and medical research. See also: Sheridan Paul Wait, "Elizabeth Thompson," *New England Magazine* 6:2 (March 1888): 222-39.

A penciled "x" appears in the left margin at this paragraph.

cod-fish: Whittier refers to what later came to be called the "Sacred Cod," a large painted wooden carving of an Atlantic codfish, which hangs in the chamber of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in Boston.

What "retaliation" Whittier speaks of is not yet known. In September of 1888, President Grover Cleveland was engaged in an intense re-election campaign, which he lost in a controversial vote, winning the popular election, but losing in the Electoral College. Perhaps Whittier refers to election politics rather than to U.S. international relations, as there appear to have been no major international issues at that time apart from immigration and tariffs.

Carolina: Jewett's "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation," set in and near Beaufort, SC — where she and Fields had visited Laura Towne in the spring of 1888. The story appeared in *Atlantic* in August 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4842.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Manchester Mass —

21 September [*1888*]*

My dear friend

I was so glad to get your letter last week and we have hoped to drive over to see you as soon as we were sure that you were in Danvers — I hoped that you and Mr. and Mrs Cartland* would be able to stop in Berwick, but I had an idea that you went home long before you really did — The last time we heard from

[*Page 2*]

you, you told us that the Sturtevant Farm* ^house^ was full so that we gave up the idea of joining you there, and when we went to Shelburne we went and came by Portland and the Grand Trunk railroad — we had a delightful three days there with Mrs Whitney and Miss Manning* — they have a beautiful view, near the bridge from which [Thor Ring *?*]* thought he found the best view in the mountains.

— It has been dull weather almost ever since I came

[*Page 3*]

to Manchester, (ten days after Mrs. Fields* came) but we have had Alice Longfellow here and Miss Fanny Stone a charming Newburyport girl whose father I saw once at your house in Amesbury — and several other people for short visits — and I have been writing some new stories — one of them I like pretty well — it is a story of retired shipmasters — and I called it The Taking of Captain Ball.* It reminds me of "Porchmouth",* but I really had in mind in one or two places an old Capn Rice who lived and died

[*Page 4*]

died in Berwick when I was a little girl — The other story is only a short one but there are two people talking in it & one says "Elder Bickers has gone an' married a gal thats four year younger than his daughter — "

"Goin' to have a mild, open winter over that way, aint they?" says the other and then they drive along. When that wrote itself down I couldn't help laughing.

— [*Deletion*] Our dear A.F. seems better but even now she hasn't got much capital in the way of strength — and has to be a little careful — You will see us driving up,

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

one of these days — before we go away. Love to your cousins and to Phebe.* I shall want to hear all about Alaska when I come —

Yours lovingly

Sarah

Notes

1888: This date is supported by the information that the two stories Jewett mentions were published in 1889.

Cartland: Gertrude and Joseph Cartland. See above "Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents."

Sturtevant Farm: Sturtevant's farm on Asquam Lake provided Whittier and his friends with a quieter summer residence than was available at resort hotels such as the Asquam House. See Pickard, *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, v. 2, pp. 694-5.

Whitney ... Manning: Anne Rebecca Whitney and Abby Adeline Manning. Key to Correspondents.

Thor Ring: This transcription is uncertain and the person has not yet been identified.

Fields ... Longfellow ... Stone: Annie Adams Fields and Alice Longfellow. Key to Correspondents.

Longfellow's friend, Frances Coolidge Stone (1851-1931) of Newburyport, MA, was the daughter of Massachusetts politician Eben Francis Stone (1822-1895), who served in Congress in 1881-1887.

Captain Ball: "The Taking of Captain Ball" appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in December 1889.

Rice probably is Captain Samuel W. Rice (1784-1858), who may have been Jewett's great uncle.

Porchmouth: Localism for Portsmouth, NH.

his daughter: Jewett refers to her story, "A Winter Courtship," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in February 1889.

Phebe: Phebe Woodman. See above Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents.

Alaska: According to *The Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 1, Whittier's cousin, Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921), "was a wide traveler and published an account of her travels, *Picturesque Alaska* (1889)" (p. 336). See Whittier to Annie Adams Fields of 22 May 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 12 letters to unidentified persons; [n.d.]. Box:12 identifier: MS Am 1844, (8616).

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

Salzburg. Sept. 24. 1888.

Dear S.O.J.,

There seems to be a little breathing-time just now, which I will use to give you news of us, for the next weeks will hardly leave more hours free for letter-writing than the last have — It has been a very busy time for me since I wrote you from the Rigi* two months ago, & there has been so much to do & see & digest mentally, that I have had no leaning towards letter-writing, & have treated my friends ungenerously in that regard. There have been so many new experiences that I want to tell you about, — so much to tell, not so little, that it almost keeps me from writing at all!

The whole summer has been such an interesting one that I feel as if I had hoarded up for future consumption, having seen &

[*Page 2*]

[& *repeated*] felt & loved a little too vividly for my small brain — From the Rigi we went to a region that you know, — Andermatt & Hospenthal, & we spent a fortnight in the latter place — I cannot tell you how carried away I was by: the scenery of the place, the quaint villages, the out-of-the-way-ness of it all, & the original air & manner of place & people. — "The [Kings *?*]"* have a long effusion, a slight rendering of my impressions — & if it interests you, of course they would let you see it — but it is very inadequate & long-winded together, which is a pity, & if you know the place you surely understand my feeling for it better without being told the details —

— I fell in love with the two villages from an artist's stand-point, & painted like mad every possible, & in fact rather im-possible weather. You ought to have seen me one day, sitting on an old arched stone-bridge in a pouring rain

[*Page 3*]

& high wind, under two umbrellas — one over my picture, & one over me, the latter held by our long-suffering little German maid! It was bitter-cold & I had to wear two shawls & an ulster & Ellie's* old sea-cap tied down over my ears, but my picture got done, which was the chief thing! In fact that sketch was rather a fated one; at a previous "sitting" [a *corrected*] sudden gust of wind whirled my sketching umbrella into the river below, whence it was fished out by a grinning old peasant-woman, a limp & battered rag of an umbrella, all its ribs broken — the festive old lady had reason to chuckle over the accident, the pleasant excitement, then 20 centimes reward, & lastly the damaged article itself, [after *corrected*] an examination which found its condition hopeless — but evidently she was not of my mind, & saw infinite possibilities for she hobbled off with it in high glee — jabbering unintelligible patois at me &

[*Page 4*]

at it alternately!

After having been snowed-up at Hospenthal we decided it was time to leave.

That was Sept. 2nd. ! you never imagined anything so glorious as the drive down through the gorge to Goeshinen. A brilliant blue sky & the ground covered with 4 inches of snow, ~~the~~ even in the valleys, while the mountains were one mass of whiteness to their very bases, more like frosted-cake than anything real! — In the Furka they had three feet of snow, & at Hospenthal about 8 inches, which stayed on the ground for nearly two days — I have two sketches of the village in the snow, taken from my window, & bearing date Sept. 2nd —

From Hospenthal we travelled slowly to the Austrian Tyrol, or rather Steiermark, — spending a few days in Zürich, & a night in Innsbruck & another in Fell-am-See on our way to our friends in Alt-Ausser.

[*text ends; no signature*]

Notes

Rigi: Rigi is a mountain in Switzerland, with a resort hotel at the peak. On page 4 Dresel mentions going to Goeshinen (Göschenen), also in Switzerland.

Kings: Though this transcription is uncertain, it probably is correct, referring to Jewett correspondent Caroline Howard King.

Ellie's: Dresel's younger brother, Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College in the Ellis Gray Loring family Papers, 1824-1925: Call Number: A-115; Box 2.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick

Tuesday Morning [*Autumn 1888*]

My dear Friend

Here is the Irish story with a devout hope that you will like it. I feel a sense of approval of this piece of work which may be ominous! I never can forget that I didn't at first appreciate the Dulham Ladies!* I have an awful desire to set a towering price

[*Page 2*]

on the Bogans —* but I hope you will think that $150. is reasonable. If you dont like them please send the manuscript to 148 Charles Street and I will mournfully take it when I come.

I do hope that dear Lilian* is better, but this

[*Page 3*]

damp weather is not good for her. Please thank her for her note, and believe me always

Yours affectionately

S. O. J.

Notes

Autumn 1888: That *Atlantic* rejected Jewett's "Irish story," and it then appeared elsewhere in January 1889, suggests that she probably submitted it to Aldrich in the latter half of 1888. See notes below.

Dulham Ladies: Jewett's "The Dulham Ladies" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1886.

Bogans: Jewett's "The Luck of the Bogans" appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* (5:100-112), January 1889, with three illustrations by C. D. Gibson. It appears, therefore, that Aldrich did *not* like the story, or was unwilling to meet Jewett's price.

Lilian: Lilian Woodman Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

[10/2/88 *in another hand*]

Manchester by the Sea

Second October

[1888 *bracketed in another hand*]

Dear Mrs. Ellis

I return the story* with many good wishes for its fortunes. Of course the worst faults that I see is its youthfulness. A young writer must be contented to wait patiently until she comes to somewhere near the standpoint of the "reading public{,}" to the point of view from which

[*Page 2*]

grown persons look out and see life with right perspective. It is this lack of perspective which troubles one a little in the sketch you sent me and this is not so much a fault as a necessary misfortune. The best one can do, — this 'foreshortening' and it hindrance being granted — is to see whether there are hopeful signs and a growing clearsightedness. I think one does find these in the sketch of Boarding School

[*Page 3*]

life. There is a lightness and gayety in the manner of it that will be a charming thing to fall back upon by and by, when there are wiser and better stories to tell! and there certainly is great clearness in seeing the situation and not too much detail on the whole, in describing it. I have a great wish that the story and this imperfect note about {it} might be read together, say three years from now! And I think

[*Page 4*]

that it would be a pity for a young girl who has had patience to work the whole of this sketch, not to keep her gift bright with use. I would not try very long things for until she "grows up" a little more it must be counted chiefly as practice work. I would

try a good deal of what Dr. Weir Mitchell* calls word-sketching, writing down

[*Page 5*]

the same thing over and over again in words, at short intervals and again at longer ones. Ones whole life and thought and experience go to the writing of the briefest story, as ones whole musical education ministers to the singing of the simplest song — but there must be a solid foundation of drill and accuracy and certainty and justesse* of touch. And there must be the round globe for the gayest and wildest imagination to take wing from.

[*Page 6*]

— I feel as if I were just beginning with every new story after all these years, but I have learned some things and one is that no matter what ones gift may be, the better it is the harder work it demands. And the greater treasure it wins, too, in spite, or I can almost say because of ones disappointments and a fast receding horizon.

= There are so many things

[*Page 7*]

to be said but I must not make this long letter any longer. We were ever so sorry to miss your promised visit this year, but you must give us double next time. They are all very well at home, & I mean to go over this week for a few days. With best remembrances to Mr. Ellis and Mary and Annie I am

always yours affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Mrs. Fields* sends her love with mine

[*Written up the margin of page 1*]

I would not roll the manuscript when you send it to an Editor — beautiful clear manuscript this! I quite envy it!

Notes

the story: Details about this story are unknown. However, since Mrs. Ellis was older than Jewett, it seems likely the story is by one of Emma's daughters, Mary or Annie, or perhaps her younger half-brothers. None of these people is known to have published fiction under his or her own name.

word-sketching: Silas Weir Mitchell. Key to Correspondents. In *S. Weir Mitchell* (2012) pp. 202-3, Nancy Cervetti describes Mitchell's practice of "word sketching."

justesse: A French noun that suggests objective correctness.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J, Ac 950.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

[*October 1888*]*

while — Your letter didnt come last night but I am looking forward to a word this morning —) Last evening I read through a book by Edna Lyall called Donovan —* which runs in the same direction as Robert Elsmere* in the main — and shows that R. E. had to be !! I dare say that we

[*Page 2*]

should find a dozen others of the same sort — not so clearly done. It takes ten seeds to make one flower — (To-day is a two-counties-meeting of a big State missionary society* — and I have put off going to Rochester as friends may be expected —

Good-day! dear dear little Fuffatee —*

from your

Pin —

Notes

October 1888: This date is likely, but not certain. Jewett refers to a meeting of the Maine missionary society taking place in South Berwick. During the period when this letter probably was composed, such a meeting was held in October 1888. See notes below.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Edna Lyall ... Donovan: Ada Ellen Bayly (1857-1903) was an English novelist who published under the name Edna Lyall. *Donovan* appeared in 1882.

Robert Elsmere: *Robert Elsmere* was an 1888 novel by Mrs. Humphry Ward. Key to Correspondents.

missionary society: The Woman's Board of Missions of the Congregational Church — Maine Branch held a semi-annual meeting in South Berwick in October 1888.

Fuffatee: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Friday morning

[*October 1888*]*

My darling Fuff —

I had such an interesting day yesterday. I didnt have much hope in the beginning but certainly a state missionary meeting ought to furnish something profitable —

There were two young women here who had been sent out by the Association,* one to Smyrna and one to an inland city in the region of Koordistan* of which I never had heard

[*Page 2*]

before and you dont know what a liking I did take to the latter one. I asked her to come to see us in the winter when she is going to be in Boston. Oh what a little creature she would be for the Charities!* so able, so intelligent — so devoted to her work and wide minded. She came up here after the meetings and stayed an hour or two and we did have such a good talk by ourselves — about Robert Elsmere* and about

[*Page 3*]

a good many other things of which she had thought more than I and kept to the forefront of things — though she has been home only part of this summer after seven or eight years in Van. Her great hope and care ^at present^ is in the industrial training the girls get in her school and that is being the "little leaven"* and the young men ~~for~~ ^of^ the country have already found that they make the best wives — I think you would enjoy the good young

[*Page 4*]

brave soul as much as I did. I have always felt a good deal removed from missionaries. Somehow or other having known some who didnt seem the right stuff — (Well Fuff must see this one! (We were busy of course most of the ~~day~~ ^morning^ getting the luncheon ready in the vestry and I saw all my neighbors.

— Dear Fuff how interesting it was about Marigold* and the plays — I do wish you had said a word more about yourself. You would tell me)

[*Page 5*]

wouldn't you dear if you had got cold or too tired or anything worried my little Fuffatee — Do tell [me *written over* my] how things get on about Agnes* and if Christie* made the evening visit. I thought not that night because it rained so here. Yes)(I* have [*deleted word possibly* begin] been forgiving all the yellow maples in a row — They never were more beautiful or so full of sun as they

[*Page 6*]

are this morning. I am going to get a little work done so that I can have a drive afield this afternoon.

God bless you my own dear (Fuff —

Your own Pin —)

Notes

October 1888: This date is supported by Jewett reporting on a meeting of the Woman's Board of Missions that took place in October 1888.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Association: The Woman's Board of Missions of the Congregational Church — Maine Branch held a semi-annual meeting in South Berwick in October 1888. Among the missionaries whose salaries were supported by the Maine Branch were: Miss Agnes M. Lord (1848-1935), based in Smyrna, and Dr. Grace Niebuhr Kimball (1855-1942), based in Van, Turkey. Dr. Kimball eventually returned to the United States to practice medicine and become a woman suffrage leader. See New York *Times* (20 November, 1942) p. 23.

Koordistan: The missionaries both were in what is now Turkey, at the ancient eastern coastal city of Smyrna and in Van in the far west, in the region of Kurdistan.

See *Anniversary* (1887) by General Conference of the Congregational Churches in Maine, pp. 146-7.

Charities: Fields worked for the Associated Charities of Boston.

Robert Elsmere: Mary Augusta Ward, author of *Robert Elsmere* (1888). Key to Correspondents.

"little leaven": See the Bible, Galatians 5:9.

Marigold: Mary Langdon Greenwood (Mrs. James) Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

Agnes: Among Jewett's known acquaintances named Agnes were:

Agnes Bartlett Brown;
Agnes Irwin;
Agnes Elizabeth Claflin, daughter of of Jewett friend and correspondent, Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin;
Agnes M. Walker (1870-1910), who married Adams Claflin Davenport, son of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin.
Key to Correspondents.

Christie: This person has not yet been identified.

)(I: Fields has superimposed these two parenthesis marks, and she may have deleted them.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett

21.*

Pillnitz, by Dresden.

Oct 8. 1888.

Stiff fingers, & a horrid cold in one's head are not exactly propitious to sensible letter-writing, — never mind, let it be un-sensible then! for I will take this chance while Marianne* has gone into the city for a painting-lesson, & I sadly stay behind to nurse a mild sore-throat.

You see by date that I am staying with the Brockhauses — It is such a pretty place, on a hill a little back from the river — so that there is a pretty view on distant hills & winding Elbe from the upper-windows. The house stands in a large garden, but all is desolate there now, excepting for late asters & the [like *corrected*], and yesterday when "the boys" were there, Marianne's three brothers & Ellie,* we had fun knocking down the walnuts with long poles, blackening our fingers with fresh nuts, which are so different from the wizened things one buys in shops. —

— This is the first minute I have had since Salzburg — & Oh dear, now it is worse than ever! So much has happened since then!

[*Page 2*]

— But it will be better to go back a little —

— Aussee!* — Yes, that was a fascinating place! Imagine a perfectly tranquil little lake, set like a jewel in a frame of pine-woods, — not blue like the Swiss lakes but black, mysterious, & fit for moonlight revels of waternixies & Lorelays.*

The little village of Alt-Aussee lies at one end; the church-tower & quaint-houses close by the water's edge casting long reflections in the [lake *corrected, probably from* water], sometimes clearer than the reality, & again longer & quivering. The shores are very steep, & the trees, mostly very dark firs, grow nearly down into the lake, ~~wh~~ excepting at the further end, where a tremendous wall of gray rock rises stern & grand, & catches & reflects every sunset glow. It is a little sombre, this scenery, but very poetic, & refreshing in contrast to parts of Switzerland which I always find theatrical — not Hospenthal — I am thinking of Interlaken & Lucerne —

— The life in this little place was also very pleasant — there are no hotels, only villas, & it is much more like summer-

[*Page 3*]

existence in Beverly. — ^than, anything else in Europe^* We stayed with old friends of Mamma's, Prof. Seegen & wife — who have a charming house & lovely garden — such roses! — right on the lake, — the boat-house was at the end of a short garden-path, & it was nearly like stepping out of one's backdoor into the boat. Every afternoon we either took a long drive or walk, or a row on the lake — more frequently the latter.

— We were there a fortnight, & not only did the place enchant me, (I sketched a good deal — whenever weather permitted) but I found quite a new intellectual life opened to me as well, different in many ways from even the German experiences, & of course interesting in the very differences. They are both uncommon people, Prof. Seegen & his wife, — he is a retired physician, & devotes himself now to beloved scientific work, principally chemical. He used to take me into his [labratory *so spelled*] where red & yellow soups were brewing in dear little glasses over spirit-lamps, & then explain how some great scientific result was attained if the red liquid

[*Page 4*]

turned blue at a given moment. As a great favor I was invited to witness this crisis, & happily it did, to the Professor's great satisfaction. He is such a dear old gentleman — one sees that he is a man of intellect at first sight, but he is so genial & affectionate that one has only the enjoyment & none of the drawbacks of it. I believe he was very much in love with Mamma when they first met in their youth, (it was when she travelled in Italy at twenty) & tried to comfort himself now by making love a little to her daughter; — though he did tell me once that [I *corrected*] was not at all like her, & that she was the most lovely [young *corrected*] girl he had ever met! —

— He told me too, that in spite of her white hair, she had kept the girl's ideals pure & had lost none of her noble-minded belief in human nature & final goodness which even then was ~~her~~ one of her qualities —

And I quite agreed with him, & enjoyed finding some one who both knew her then, & appreciated her now.

Mrs. Seegen is a very bright woman, very cultivated, & has the name of a blue-stocking I hear, but according to our ideas could hardly

[*Page 5*]

be one, as she is a painfully careful housekeeper, pedantic even, in all her little arrangements, & like Martha* "troubled about many things{.}" She really is rather "fussy" but it is amiable fussiness, & she is altogether such an affectionate lovable little woman that after one is used to it, one loves her all the more for the queer little particularities. She is rather old-maidish; — marriage does [not *corrected*] prevent some women from [becoming *corrected*] so, you know. The household consisted further of Mrs. Seegen's unmarried sister, who has always lived with them, & Mrs. S's god-child, Lili Hensel, who was making them a long visit. In her I found at first a most lively & amusing companion, & since then a warmer friendship, & I trust a lasting one, has grown up between us. She is the daughter of Sebastian Hensel,* the author of "Familie Mendelssohn," & thus a great ^great^-granddaughter of Moses Mendelssohn, & grand-daughter of Felix Mendelssohn's elder sister Fanny. — The Seegens also are of Jewish origin, & a great many of the people we met there either own openly the same descent, or one is led to suppose it. This was to me a new & interesting

[*Page 6*]

feature. I will not say that all people of Jewish blood are so brilliant & so cultivated as those whom we met there, but certainly we became acquainted with the best in those circles, & found the people more intellectual & certainly with more sparkling quickness of mind than most so-called Christian " Germans.* — In Germany it certainly is the problem of the age — (little as one hears of it in America — how to reconcile this Jewish element with the German feudal-aristocratic element — Here were people of singular cultivation & refinement, — superior in wealth, position & cultivation, to two-thirds of the pure Saxon upper ten-thousand, & still a certain stigma rests upon them, painfully felt by the more sensitive, & indignantly denied, or rather opposed, by the more arrogant, — but still there, making itself felt in a thousand little pricks in all mixed social intercourse, as well as in all diplomatic & political relations. The feeling against Jewish blood

[*Page 7*]

(for two thirds of the cases it is no longer a question of religion) seems particularly strong just at present — Perhaps because the new "Kaiser"* is so strongly conservative { — } A reaction from his father's policy, which in his short weeks' reign was rather impolitic in its liberality —

However things may seem to be going, we are in the 19th Century after all, & these [Anti-Semitic *corrected*] agitations must burn themselves away — ^comparatively harmlessly^ {.} Germany cannot afford to cut off its own right arm as it were, by permanently expressing such an influential part of the nation — for whatever the Anti-Semites have on their side, it is certain that a large part of the talent, & certainly the largest wealth of the nation lies with its citizens of Jewish blood, if not always still of Jewish religion ——

— To return to details — & the delightful visit at the Seegens' —

— I found in Lili Hensel a most attractive interesting playmate — She is full of life

[*Page 8*]

& spirits, & with great talents for the comical side of life, so we got on famously, & were always encouraging each other in all manner of nonsense & naughtiness, to Mrs. [Seegens' *so written*] astonishment & enjoyment. Lili is very well-read, & is as bright & cultivated as one would expect a descendant of Hensels & Mendelssohn's to be, but the family-talents seem not to be particularly concentrated in her; it is more all-round brightness, & aptitude in every direction. She has a great deal of beauty, a keen interesting face, & eyes, gray in color but Oriental in shape, that are singularly expressive & beautiful. She has a crop of short blond hair like a naughty boy's, & dresses like a perfect guy, which is a pity, & seems unnecessary. — She writes better than she paints & sings, & has sent stories to magazines & papers with some success — She showed me some parodies that were wonderfully clever & witty — a sharp ridicule that is a characteristic of the Berlin people — Is it not odd that certain places seem to foster

[*Page 9*]

4.

certain traits? —

One charming feature about Ausser-life is that the peasants all wear their costumes still & glory in them — & it is quite the fashion for ladies & gentlemen to adopt ^it^ for every undress occasion, climbing mountains, rowing, etc. It is much like the Tyrolese costume that is world-renowned by Defregger's pictures* of peasant-life — ~~g~~ for the men, jacket ~~& knee-breeches~~ of rough gray cloth faced with dark green, ^black leather knee breeches,^ — waistcoat with double rows of silver buttons —, heavy stockings of green wool, leaving the knees bare, & soft felt hat, also green, with ^hawks^ feathers, or a chamois-tail ^in the hat-band^ at the back, & on Sundays a rose or sprig of Alpine flowers — for the [women *corrected*] full ^rather short^ skirts of figured calico ^& white lawn sleeves^ an apron of wool or silk, very full & long, — a ^gangly^ flowered silk kerchief for the neck, leaving the throat bare, & showing off the silver necklace with heavy clasp in front — they wore black silk kerchiefs on the head,

but ladies who sport the costume adopt the more convenient

[*Page 10*]

men's felt hat — Lili H. had a costume which was most becoming, & very convenient for rowing — She is a splendid oarswoman, pulling a stroke strong & steady as any man's, & she often rowed us the whole length of the lake to the "Leewiese" where we refreshed ourselves with afternoon tea — while I reserved my feeble performances in that line for tête-à-tête expeditions with Lili in the mornings — generally to the bathing-house, a fifteen-minutes row, where she went in swimming ~~let~~ in a scarlet bathing dress, like a red & particularly lively frog, the while I sat on ^the extreme^ [end *corrected*] ^of a^ very shaky board out over the water, holding the rope attached to her swimming belt — The water is excessively cold & very deep, so in spite of her entreaties I did not think it an advisable occasion for first [swimming *corrected*] experiences; — I confined myself to studying her struggles, & revenged myself by a lovely portrait of Lili à la frozen, red garments & all!

[*Page 11*]

— You can imagine that I was sorry to leave — they all united in spoiling me; — I think beforehand they must have rather had their qualms about the strange young American lady, for it seemed a delightful surprise that I could talk German perfectly, ~~& that~~ (mamma having it seemed preserved a most discreet & modest silence about me altogether in her letters) ^& that^ I was quite "up" in everything European — Then they thought all my sketches perfectly beautiful, & loved & adored me all the more the wickeder & naughtier I grew — I mean conversationally — for in certain directions I was so preternaturally virtuous that Mrs. S. actually still believes me to be a model of order & neatness!

I was so petted & admired that it was high time that I should leave before my disposition quite degenerated — Unhappily for my natural modesty they keep it up here at the Brockhauses pretty well. Marianne especially is incorrigible —

[*Page 12*]

— The Austrians I met at the Seegens were in manner & appearance especially in dress, more American than anything else. Quite un-German oddly enough — & I could hardly believe some of the older women were not from New York instead of Vienna. There is more "chic" if anything — the same tinge of superficiality, oftentimes more assumed than real — but greater elegance of manner, & more forms, conversationally, than with us.

— The men are superior intellectually to the women — old-fashioned in that. There were many [older *corrected*] men of great brilliancy & high literary or scientific position. I had quite a flirtation with a dear old gentleman of seventy or more — his shortest title is "Excellenz" — he is keeper of the Royal Austrian archives, & something at court beside, but author & statesman as well. ^(he has just published, in French, the correspondence of Maria Theresia & Marie Antoinette)*^ His name is von Arneth, — & his mother was the beautiful "Toni" bride of Theodore Körner;* that seems

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5.

to bring Schiller* very near — does it not?

— I see with horror how this letter has grown, & I think it will be better for us both if I leave the rest till next time — Salzburg, Munich, Nuremberg, — is not that a fascinating trio of old cities? —

— I must tell you still how very well, thank God, Mamma seems to be. Last winter, do you remember my telling you that she said she could not ^go^ downstairs? — And the other day she went up 127 steps in the old tower of the fort at Salzburg to see the view! I ought to add that she rested well at the landings — but still — ! —

Quite as astonishing to you will be her latest feat — we arrived here in Dresden at 10 1/2 p.m. after a ten hours journey from Nuremberg —

[*Page 14*]

the next day I was dead-tired & quite dizzy & miserable from the journey but she took the 2 p.m. train for Leipzig arriving at 5 1/2, & then went to the concert at 7 with papa & Ellis!

Papa is in Leipzig working away for dear life, poor soul — eight hours a day, — to get the "Well-tempered Clavichord"* ready for publication before he sails — Nov. 7th {.} Mamma means to visit him at intervals & I think I shall go on to the next concert, as there is a good programme.

Ellis I suppose will miss none of them — The Brockhauses who had not seen him since May thought him looking & seeming better, but unhappily there is little actual improvement, & we still feel anxious about him.

— We have had no news of you & Mrs. Fields* for so long, — will you write me a note some day, when you have time? Never mind about a letter but let me have a few words to tell me what you are about.

Dearest love to Mrs. Fields. — Always yours devotedly, Loulie.

Notes

21: This number is penciled at the top of page 1; it is not clear whether this is in Dresel's hand.

Marianne: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Ellie: Dresel's younger brother, Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Aussee: Bad Aussee, Austria.

waternixies & Lorelays: Nixies are river mermaids; Lorelei is a siren in German folklore. Wikipedia.

Europe: Probably Dresel meant for her insertion to appear before her period and dash.

Seegen: Dresel may refer to Austrian physician Joset Seegen (1822-1904), who served as a spa doctor and did research on how mineral waters helped in treating disease, particularly diabetes, publishing a study on Diabetes mellitus in 1893. See Czech Wikipedia.

Martha: For this story about Martha, see the Bible, Luke 10:41-2.

Sebastian Hensel: German businessman and author, Sebastian Ludwig Felix Hensel (1830-1898) was the son of pianist and composer Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-1847) and painter Wilhelm Hensel (1794–1861). German composer Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was his uncle. He was the compiler/author of a history of the distinguished Mendelssohn family: *Die Familie Mendelssohn 1729-1847: nach Briefen und Tagebüchern* (1879).

German author, Lili Hensel du Bois-Reymond (1864-1948) was the youngest of his 5 children. Wikipedia.

Germans: The purpose of the quotation mark before this word is not known.

Kaiser: The new Kaiser of the German Empire was Wilhelm I, who held the position from 1888 to 1918. His father was Friedrich III, who ruled a little over 3 months, until 15 June 1888. Wikipedia.

Defregger's pictures: Austrian artist Franz von Defregger (1835-1921) is best remembered as a painter of genre and history works set in Tyrol. Wikipedia.

Theodore Körner: German poet and soldier, Carl Theodor Körner (1791-1813); Wikipedia says that his wife was the popular actress Antonie Adamberger (1790-1867). By her second marriage with Joseph Calasanza von Arneth, von Körner's widow bore the Austrian historian Alfred von Arneth (1819-1897), the elderly gentleman with whom Dresel flirts. He was the author of a 10-volume biography of the Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa.

Schiller: German intellectual and author, Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), was an older contemporary of Körner.

"*Well-tempered Clavichord*": Wikipedia says "The Well-Tempered Clavier ... consists of two sets of preludes and fugues in all 24 major and minor keys for keyboard" by German composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). *Das wohltemperierte Klavier* edited by Robert Franz and Otto Dresel was published in Leipzig in 1890.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College in the Ellis Gray Loring family Papers, 1824-1925: Call Number: A-115; Box 2.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. [17th *changed from* 16] Oct, (88*

My dearest Annie:

I sent you such a poor note for your dear long letter! And I cannot remember what I wrote, except to tell you I was so very ill again. That was Monday I believe, when the letter was sent, & tomorrow if it is not too stormy, the Pinafore* has to go across to Portsmouth again, so I will try to send another now. I am better, but I cannot yet leave the lounge where I lie most of the day. All the time my side troubles me, high up in my left side. This afternoon I ventured to put on my clothes for awhile — I have been living in my dressing gown a fortnight. I [havent *?*] much strength & my eyes look like two burned holes in a blanket — But I think I am getting over it, slowly, — I hope so.

I was so much interested in what you told me of Miss Cusack.* I am so glad she

[*Page 2*]

liked Mina's people & Mina herself,* who is a dear — I do hope your Norwegian is still as good as you hoped, & she promised. They are a delightful race, I think. These poor good Guttormsens are so respectable & [worthy. it *so written*] is a pleasure to have them here. We are depending on the woman they have sent for, to take the helm here while we are gone. I do hope she will be somebody on whom we can rely! I dont remember what I told you in my letter about our affairs, & at the risk of repeating myself, will say that Lucy, who has been with her husband at the head of things here for so many years, out of pure jealousy of the girl Ella* (our present housekeeper) who is going with me to Portsmouth, deserted the camp entirely & left Ella with the whole charge. Ella had begged me in the spring to let her keep my little place for me in Ports. this winter & we had arranged it all — But I could not go & take Ella & leave Oscar in this

house with no one but the good old mindless Irish woman who helps Ella, & so we are depending on the arrival of [Ladene *?*] Knutsen & cannot leave here till she is trained a little & settled in her place — Isnt it a queer name? They call her "Deena" as if it were spelt with two Es. She is a woman 40 years old, has "seen trouble" enough,

[*Page 3*]

her husband was hard to live with & is now dying in an insane asylum in Norway. They say she is a good cook & used to the care of a house &c. but it all remains to be seen. Inga Guttormsen who was over to see me yesterday, said that Deena was so rejoiced to come & only hoped she would suit so she could stay here the rest of her life! & that she was so glad to hear there were cattle here, for she loved them. So the 7 cows & the pigs & the hens will be thought about & looked after — for since Edward, Lucy's husband went, there seems to be a lack of interest in the live stock! Deena will only have my brother Oscar, Annie the Irish woman, & the two youths, one of whom is engineer for the Pinafore, for a family to take care of during the winter, so I think it will be easy for her & she will have Inga to speak to: they were little girls together in Norway. I hope we shall be able to keep Oscar with us a great deal in Ports — he has a room in my little place, bright & sunny, with fireplace & everything & comfortable, & Harry Marvin,* a young man who is one of the "youths" I spoke of, is a fine, responsible fellow, with whom Oscar would dare to leave the place for a week or more at a time — Harry fell so in love with the island that he begged them

[*Page 4*]

to let him come & stay all winter & do any work, however rough, so that he could be here in the summer — he was messenger on the steamer last summer, but he wants a permanent position. He is a treasure, educated & refined & really charming. Deena is coming Tuesday the 23rd, if it doesnt storm so that the Pinafore cannot cross, & after we have taught her & got her into the traces, we shall go to P. — I think before the middle of next month, if all is well.

Thursday — dear Annie, it blows a hurricane today & no boat can cross. But for a wonder it does not rain & I am glad of sunshine. I am better this morning, but yet far from right: not good for much.

It is curious how things arrange themselves in this world! Truly, there is a power at work under & through all things which is not man's power. I thought I was so sure to be here all winter. — Now I amuse myself with thinking of my little house. How interested dear J. T.* would be! The house is so old, & the upper part used to be the ancient armory: the whole place had everything taken out of it & only the walls left standing, then the man, old Russell,* of whom I hired it, partitioned it [off *?*] & arranged it as I asked him. I told him to make me a nice bath room & kitchen anyhow, & let the rest of the house accommodate itself to these two accomplished facts! It is such a quaint, funny good [old *corrected*] thing! Well, I have the nice bath room, & cosy little kitchen & dining room, small, but big enough; my chamber & a parlor (with open fire-place) twenty feet long & looking

[*Page 5*]

from its two eastern windows — (it has four in all) straight down the street past the De Normandie* house, to the blue river, such a pretty view! And the corner of the house is round & the window is large & bows out, following that corner, & such a place for plants! All these rooms on one floor. [And *corrected*] a front door on State St & back door on Penhallow St. And upstairs there is a great long space with a window at each end, to dry clothes, then a room for Ella, & one for Karl,* & another dark room with sink & water works for his photographing, & a room for Oscar, & two spare rooms opening into each other over the parlor ^& another little W.C.!^ — Did you ever hear the like? And half the cellar for my use, & the whole ^affair^ for 2 hundred & twenty dollars a year, just half what I gave for two rooms at the Clifford.* And the sun flooding the whole place, when there is any sun — that is what first drew my attention to it, that beautiful exposure to the east & south — Oscar says it looks perfectly charming with all its sunshine, & it is all fresh & new & clean & bright with all the walls & wood work painted the soft pretty colors I chose. The kitchen stove is all up & water works in order, the finest water & drainage possible. There are closets in every room. There is to be a "pothecary" shop under me, but Lor'! who minds! It will be convenient for tooth brushes & court plaster! & I have

[*Page 6*]

nothing whatever to do with it — the two places do not connect in any way. I am glad to be up stairs — it is a little more removed from the rude world & I can hide away to greater advantage. I wouldn't have a gas pipe put in to the house. "No thank you," I said. "[I'll *?*] take my poison in another form, please!" Not a plant would [live *?*] for me! & what is life without one's plants! not worth accepting.

Well, Julie & Cedric & the children are so glad! And since it must be so, I am content, if only Oscar* will come & stay as he hopes to do. And if only I can have some strength again! Ella is a nice girl, devoted & capable: the work of this little place will be nothing to her — she is young & strong —

To think the Pinafore cannot cross today & I am waiting with a patience almost superhuman to

hear of little Roland's arrival* — that [baby *corrected*] must have come before now{.} I must be a real grandmother, & here am I beyond reach of any telegram or letter & cannot know if my poor little girl is alive or dead, if the little one is really in this world, or what has befallen. The nurse was there a [fort *corrected*]^night^ ago & they were all sitting & waiting when I heard a week ago. No mail for a week! Now we share not hear till Saturday, if it is pleasant enough to cross then — Well — I shall seal up my garrulous letter & put it in the

[*Page 7*]

bag to be ready when at last the boat can go — I hope I have not tired you with all this — I send the sonnet to Appleton Brown* because you like him too — He was so charming this summer! He said to me "you have written a poem for everybody but me!" "It isnt because there isn't one waiting just under the surface," I said, & so one afternoon I made it & laid it on my desk & bade him go sit in my chair & read, that evening — but I was not prepared for his being so touched & overcome! I never saw anything so moving as the way he lay on the floor when he tumbled off the chair as if he had been shot, full ten minutes before he picked himself up — He is the most modest creation! Then Mr Gilder* wanted it, seeing it by chance, so the Century will print it. Wasn't it fine [AB *corrected*]* made nearly nine hundred dollars here with his pictures! I am so glad! I fear we shall not have him here another year. He will be going abroad{.}

Dear Annie I lie on my couch all alone, my face close to the window looking east. The dark blue sea is "feather white" but I don't think it blows quite so hard, for I see one or two schooners far off, that are not reefed at all: they glitter in the sun, one is quite "hull down" on the horizon. The hill side is all scarlet & gold & russet when the bushes have turned. There's not a living thing in sight, save now & then a gull battling with the wind. I make Karl go out to his work (he has much to do in his pretty castle) now that I am better. I will not keep him in. But every hour he comes in to see how I am. Oscar & Cedric are busy { — }

[*Page 8*]

they do not come to sit with me till evening — I am alone all day: but I am never bored or weary — I hope I dont bore you! If only I am out of pain I do not mind anything. Now [comes *corrected*] a new schooner close in, loaded with lumber, her deck load yellow in the sun. Yes, the wind is certainly lulling & we shall send the mail in perhaps tomorrow if Pinafore can return!

Poor Mary Lodge* — I hope she is not going to suffer. I will not say anything of what you have spoken — You did not say what was the matter with Minnie Pratt?* Perhaps you dont know. The Dr said all my trouble came from exhaustion consequent on over work, over work for a long time, & last spring, out of all reason. Yes — I did not take into consideration my 53 years & never spared my self — so here I am.

Dearest, I doubt if I get to Boston, perhaps I may for a day & night, if I feel much better. I thank you with all my heart all the same.

Was not Mr Sam Ward* good to me! Last boat came a big box with twelve hyacinth bulbs & 12 exquisite double glasses, amber & white & green, & a hundred [crocus *?*] bulbs! Now wasnt he good! They are all getting ready & putting down their roots in a dark cool closet — oh but they will be fine bye & bye! But they cant come out to the sun for three weeks yet —

My dearest love to Pinny* & my dearest love to you { — } I know you will write to me soon. And I will tell you what befalls in this remoteness — [*unrecognized phrase* ___ I am *?*]

your loving

C.T.

[*Up the left margin of page 1, but connected to content of pp.4-6*]

My little place is exactly opposite to the corner where Nora Bartlett's surprising mother* lives!

Notes

88: Penciled in another hand at the top of page 1: "A few extracts may be made from this letter perhaps." This note presumably is by Rose Lamb or Annie Fields as they were preparing *Letters of Celia Thaxter*.

Pinafore: The Laighton brothers' steam tugboat.

Miss Cusack: The identity of this person is not yet known. However, it is possible Thaxter refers to Margaret Anna Cusack (1829-1899), who became known as Mary Francis Cusack & as Mother Margaret. This Irish-born nun was by 1888 established in the United States, in New Jersey. A social activist, she was particularly interested in providing immigrant women with education for domestic work.

Mina's people ... Mina: Mina Berntsen is mentioned often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See also Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate* pp. 80-3. Her family, as revealed in several of Thaxter's letters, suffered from mental illness, and several members found their way to the Somerville, MA, Asylum for the Insane, now the McLean Hospital.

In his memoir, *Ninety Years at the Isles of Shoals*, Oscar Laighton discusses Mina Bernsten and her family. Mina was a favorite of both Oscar's mother and Celia Thaxter. He does not mention

the Gottormsens (transcription uncertain), Inga, Deena Knutsen, or Annie, the Irish woman.

Oscar identifies Oliver and Ella Adams. Of Ella, he says "She developed a remarkable gift of housekeeping, and has had charge of that department at the Oceanic Hotel for over thirty years, and is greatly esteemed by the Unitarian Association. During the winter she is housekeeper for Harry Marvin at his beautiful Inn at Camden, South Carolina." Oliver Adams served as engineer on the Pinafore.

Oscar also identifies Lucy and Edwin Caswell, a couple who worked for the Laightons for forty years "proving most efficient and loyal." Almost certainly this is the right person, though Thaxter calls him "Edward." Edwin became Oscar's "right hand man," helping with carpentry and other maintenance work at the Laighton hotel property. "Edwin and Lucy had been with us since they were children, always loyal and faithful. We were very fond of them, for they seemed like our own family."

Harry Marvin: Oscar Laighton says that Harry G. Marvin has "unusual ability," and managed the Oceanic Hotel for the Laightons. This is Harry Greenwood Marvin (1868-1936), who also managed the Hobkirk Inn, in Camden, SC.

J.T.: James Thomas Fields, Fields's deceased spouse. Key to Correspondents.

Old Russell: The owner and refurbisher of the Portsmouth house Thaxter rented has not yet been identified.

De Normandie: Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1924) and her husband, Unitarian minister, James de Normandie (1836-1924).

Karl: Thaxter's oldest son, who was disabled. See Thaxter in Key to Correspondents.

The Clifford: Thaxter and Karl sometimes wintered at the Clifford Hotel in Boston. See Rosamond Thaxter, *Sandpiper* (Randall 1963,1999), p. 185.

Julie ... Cedric ... Oscar: Oscar and Cedric Laighton were Thaxter's brothers. Cedric and Julia were married. See Thaxter in key to Correspondents.

Roland ... baby: Thaxter's youngest son, married Mabel G. Freeman. Their first son, Charles Eliot Thaxter, was born 31 October 1888.

Appleton Brown: John Appleton Brown. Key to Correspondents.

Thaxter's "To a Painter (J.A.B.)" appeared in *Century Magazine* in August 1889.

Poet, whose golden songs in silence sung
Thrill from the canvas to the hearts of men, —
Sweet harmonies that speak without a tongue,
Melodious numbers writ without a pen, —
The great gods gifted thee and hold thee dear;
Placed in thy hand the torch which genius lit,
Touched thee with genial sunshine, and good cheer,
And swift heat lightnings of a charming wit
Whose shafts are ever harmless, though so bright;
Gave thee of all life's blessings this, the best, —
The true love of thy kind, — for thy delight.
So be thou happy, poet-painter blest,
Whose gentle eyes look out, all unaware,
Beneath the brow of Keats, soft-crowned with shadowy hair.

Mr Gilder: Richard Watson Gilder. Key to Correspondents.

AB: The transcription of these initials is uncertain, but they appear enough like AB to speculate that Thaxter refers again to the painter, John Appleton Brown.

Mary Lodge: Mary Greenwood Lodge, who died in December 1889. Key to Correspondents.

Minnie Pratt: Probably this is Miriam Foster Pratt (1835-1906), sister of one of Fields's close friends, Helen Olcott Bell. See Bell in Key to Correspondents.

Sam Ward: Samuel Gray Ward (1817-1907), American banker, poet and author.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Nora Bartlett's surprising mother: Neither Bartlett nor her mother has yet been identified. The following note appears in the Boston *Globe* of 24 August 1884: "Miss Nora Bartlett affects aesthetic costumes at the Shoals, where she is Sarah Orne Jewettourning" (p. 12).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, California: James Thomas Fields Papers and Addenda (1767-1914), mss FI 1-5637, Box 63 FI 1- 4221.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St. Oct. 19

[*1888*]*

My dear friend:

I am thinking of you tonight while the rain drips, drips, as if it had [*mark*] never rained before — and what do you think is to happen tomorrow, or do you already know? that before the sun sets Elizabeth Phelps will have married her young friend Mr. Ward!* A letter came to me today — I dare say

she wrote to you also by the same mail. It is a mercy to me that my Sarah* has gone to Berwick for I much fear I could not have held my tongue until tomorrow as she requests. I know you can't get this before the papers will have the news [so *corrected*] I take great

[*3*]

comfort tonight in talking with you about it on paper!

I have received the interesting portraits of Richard Spofford,* the same I presume which his wife sent to you, and with them a long letter from her. I wish you may be well enough to go to see her, but do

[*4*]

not run any risk, in this changing and difficult season, of taking more cold. How beautiful it was at Danvers when we walked out among the trees — I can never forget it.

This action of E.S.P. has taken me utterly by surprise. I am quite dazed by it tonight{.} No wonder she is loved by him if he has given her Love's Philter — but I wonder still!

Your affectionate Annie Fields

Notes

1888: This date is confirmed by the announcement of the imminent wedding of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps.

Phelps ... Ward: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

Her marriage to the much younger author, Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932) in October 1888, caused a good deal of talk among their friends at the time.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Richard Spofford: Harriet Prescott Spofford. Key to Correspondents. Her husband, Richard Smith Spofford, died on 11 August 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

10/21 1888

My Annie Fields,

Was there ever so droll a thing! If Elizabeth* had been announced as a Star actress in the theatre, I should not have been more surprised. I am tempted to laugh, but am checked by the feeling that there is a very serious side to the matter. Mr Ward I have seen and rather liked. He has been twice at Oak Knoll with Elizabeth. He seemed to me a sensible, cultivated

[*Page 2*]

young man, of agreeable manner. I was pleased with his gentle and delicate attentions to Elizabeth, and saw that they were very grateful to her. He had [seen *?*] Phebe* before, and danced with her at the Hamilton hotel in Bermuda winter before last.

It is very strange but how do we know that it is not the best thing for both? Love seems to have cured her. She had an intense longing for it, and it was better than homeopathy or "Christian

[*Page 3*]

Science" or "mind cure"* for her case.

How the wicked world will laugh over it! But if she is happy what will she care for the world? Let us hope that all will be well. At any rate I shall maintain that she has the ^~~has an~~^ inalienable right to "the pursuit of happiness"* in her own way. The disparity of age is no more to be taken into account in her case than [in *corrected*] that of the man who marries a girl much younger than himself. One of the happiest matches I

[*Page 4*]

ever knew was that of a young friend of mine in Philade. who married a lady a dozen years his senior. So let us hope for the best.

I am glad to hear of Andrew Carnegie's letter,* for it will relieve thee from a labor which I feared was too much for thee. To whom and where shall I send my subscription?*

I have requested Houghton and Co to send my new Edition* to thee. It is very hard for thee to have the grand secret of E. S. P.'s marriage so to thyself. How our Sarah* would enjoy it! I have

[*Up of left margin of page 4*]

received no letter. I feel rather aggrieved that I was not consulted. Ever affectionately.

John G Whittier

Notes

Elizabeth: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, see Key to Correspondents.

Her marriage to the much younger author, Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932) in October 1888, caused a good deal of talk at the time.

In his notes on this letter, John B. Pickard says: "Elizabeth Stuart Phelps married Herbert Dickinson Ward on October 29, 1888. She was then forty-four and her husband twenty-seven. Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932), an author and publicist, wrote for the *Youth's Companion*

and the Boston *Post* and served as a publicity agent for the United States Treasury Department. He and his wife wrote novels together and lived in Newton Center, Massachusetts."

Sources disagree on the exact date of their marriage; for example, a contemporary obituary of Ward gives an October 20 date, as do other sources, while Pickard says 29 October. It is not yet clear, then, whether the secret Whittier mentions at the end of the letter regards the fact of the marriage or the announcement that it is forthcoming.

Phebe: Almost certainly, this is Phebe Woodman. See Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

homeopathy or "Christian Science" or "mind cure": Homeopathy is a pseudo-scientific alternative medicine based on the claim that a substance that causes symptoms in healthy people will relieve those symptoms in the ill.

Christian Science is based on the claim that illness is an illusion resulting from misunderstanding of one's relationship with spiritual reality, and that only prayer can truly heal.

American psychologist and philosopher, William James (see Key to Correspondents.) associated the "mind cure movement" with a more general "New Thought" movement, based on an idea that spiritual reality determines material reality and, therefore, that illness results not from physical causes, but from problematic mental states. To cure the body, one must in some way, cure the mind first.

inalienable right to "the pursuit of happiness": Whittier alludes to the American "Declaration of Independence" of 1776.

Carnegie's letter: Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist. In the fall of 1888, he was deeply engaged in the effort to replace the Democratic incumbent, U. S. President Grover Cleveland, with his Republican rival, Benjamin Harrison. Whittier, Jewett and Fields also were very interested in this election. It seems likely that the letter mentioned here was connected with this presidential campaign.

However, Whittier's mentioning a subscription suggests that Carnegie's materials may have concerned some philanthropic activity.

new Edition: It seems likely that Whittier refers to his collected works, issued by Houghton Mifflin under various titles in 1888.

our Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4836. This letter has been transcribed previously by John B. Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier
Fragment

[*About 21 October 1888*]*

for poetry, but it was nobly given. Dante* has suggested it, but I send you feebly the idea — It is so good to have the divine influence of nature made evident{.}

Sarah* sends her love with mine and we are both delighted with the books.

She will be glad too, to see Mr. Carnegie's letter and the [circular *?*] when you are done with them altogether.

your affectionate Annie Fields

Notes

1888: See Whittier to Fields of 21 October 1888.

Dante: Italian poet, Dante Alighieri (c. 1265-1321). Wikipedia.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Carnegie: Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist. See Whittier to Fields of 21 October 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Box: 12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, Box 12: 796-7**.** Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 15 letters to unidentified persons.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

23 October 1888

My dear friend

I wish that I could have a short opportunity to speak ~~with you~~ about the East Gloucester wedding. It seems only a year or two since I was befriending little Herbert Ward* about his stamp book and other boyish enterprises. You see that I have always known all his people — his grandmother was one of

[*Page 2*]

my father's friends and schoolmates — one of the Hayes family here — And to think of our E.S.P.! I cant deal with the subject in a letter but you know that I always had better hopes of her health than some other people did — How happy they are nobody knows, and now he will go to New York and rush into the vortex of society and have a [salon *corrected*] and be as giddy and lively as you

[*Page 3*]

please — Years dont count, "we are only as [*deletion*] as old as our hearts are," as the French folk say —

Mrs. Fields* and I did have such a dear good time the day we drove over, and were so glad to see two of the ladies afterward in town. I must go up again next week to see A.F. and the Coquelin French plays.* I suppose that you are busy with the campaign* — but I think that

[*Page 4*]

it ought to be called the Drum campaign — Berwick seems to have taken to drumming on big and little drums with great energy, and walking to and fro in little processions up and down the streets — I am busy writing again; Mrs. Dodge* asked me for a three-or-four number for St. Nicholas but I feel doubtful sometimes. I have been at grown-up stories so long — — I hope that you will give my best remembrances to Judge and Mrs. Cate* ——

Yours always lovingly

Sarah —

Notes

Herbert Ward: See Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward in Key to Correspondents.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Coquelin French plays: Benoît-Constant Coquelin (1841-1909) was a world-famous French actor. Wikipedia. The New York *Times* for 30 October 1888 (page 2) reported an opening night full house for Coquelin at the Hollis Street Theatre in Boston on 29 October. The program included recitations and two short dramatic pieces.

campaign: In the U.S. presidential election of 1888, Republican Benjamin Harrison defeated Democrat incumbent Grover Cleveland. Whittier supported Harrison.

Mrs. Dodge: Mary Mapes Dodge. Key to Correspondents.

Jewett did eventually produce a serial for *St. Nicholas*. "A Bit of Color" in three parts during the spring of 1889; this eventually became Jewett's novel *Betty Leicester: A Story for Girls* (1890).

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Cate: Mrs. George W. Cate, who occupied Whittier's house in Amesbury, MA. See *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* (1894) by Samuel Thomas Pickard, v. 1, note p. 612.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Pickard-Whittier papers I. Letters to John Greenleaf Whittier Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 17 letters; [1882]-1883. Box: 3 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (169).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

South Berwick

23 October 1888

Dear Loulie I dont mean to let so long time pass between my letters [again *corrected*] while you are away — I have been delighted with your dear long charming stories of the people and places you have seen, but while I thought of you day after day I was always busy with too many notes and [*deletion*] "shop" things to take the time and have the pleasure of a long talk with you and some other dear friends - — But

[*Page 2*]

I am going to cure myself of impatience about the business and every-day letters now and take the best first — Since I began this I have had your letter from Leipsic* and I must say first how delighted I am to hear that dear Mrs. Dresel is so much better{.} It did my heart good to know that she was climbing high towers! Mrs. Fields (I now report upon my patient.) is better too. She calls it well but I see that there is very little strength for a long pull — though she gets through

[*Page 3*]

3

ordinary day's work as well as usual — I have been at home about a fortnight but I go back on Monday for the Coquelin-Hading plays* (which we expect to enjoy enormously —) and I shall have the week in town. I always grudge being away from Berwick when there is a chance of fine autumn weather. There have been two glorious days this week and the morning of the last one we started early by boat and big birch canoe and went way up the smaller of the two

[*Page 4*]

rivers which meet just below the village and had a joyful camping-out day — cooking our dinner at the fire and being so hungry that my appetite has threatened to fail once or twice since — I felt as if I could weather the whole winter like a bear after that feast was once over. My mother was driven across the fields and pastures and joined us by noon so that it was a high holiday. I wish that you had been along to make some sketches — also for other and more selfish reasons. The ^summer^ foliage still kept splashes

[*Page 5*]

of bright colour and the pines and hemlocks were superb — and such a blue sky with all the crows in the county flying over. It [has *corrected*] been a dark and raining autumn and the wild little river

was very swift and full to the brim — The canoe went better than the boat which dragged going up and blistered some my of my fingers ^They have not been blistered for a long time, tough things!^ Beside, there was no fishing though I tried it faithfully. It was lovely coming swiftly down and we lengthened out the two or three miles as much as we possibly could —

[*Page 6*]

I cant tell which is pleasantest this inland river or the larger tide river which it flows into — but I cant get along without either. ~~and~~ [After *change from* after] all on the tide river you can go anywhere — even across to Spain because there is nothing to stop you — I have made intimate acquaintance with little bitterns lately — there is a family of them down river and they are nice big-headed little birds with no end of business and curiosity to see what is going on all along shore —

[*Page 7*]

I know that you will wish to hear about our few weeks at Manchester and of course I can say that they were full of pleasures — There were the two anxieties — Mrs. Pratts* illness which was happily almost over when we came to the shore — ~~but~~ and Mrs Lodges* more serious condition which is an inexpressible pain to everybody. I do not think she knows yet that there is little hope of her being any better, but the truth hangs like a heavy cloud before us. She was perfectly charming in the week she spent with us. I grew fonder of her than ever before. We all three talked so much of you

[*Page 8*]

and 'Mamma', and I was blown sky high because I didn't have your Interlaken letter,* which Mrs. Fields referred to until I had to send it up to her from here after I came home. And I suppose that Mrs [Lodge *?*] has ^now^ heard it at last. I looked it through most carefully to see if there would be any secrets to keep for you, but no! and I couldn't resist bestowing such a pleasure — —— I hope you will find time to read Robert Elsemere* — you and your Marianne* would like it and find much help in it I am sure — People here mistake the intention of it I think{.} Do tell me what you think about it.

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

and here is love to Mrs Dresel and best remembrances to Mr. Dresel and Ellis* —

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 5*]

and give my love to Marianne and ask her to give you two kisses for me, being a dear Loulie and much missed by S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 2*]

I meant to scold dreadfully about a story* for St. Nicholas that I am trying to write! It promised to be very nice but it has got aground in the ink bottle.

Notes

Leipsic: This seems to be what Jewett wrote, but one would expect she meant Leipzig, Germany, not the Ohio town. However, Dresel told of her mother climbing a tower in her letter of 8 October 1888, sent from Phillnitz, by Dresden, which is about 140 km from Leipzig.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Coquelin-Hading plays: Benoît-Constant Coquelin (1841-1909) was a world-famous French actor. Wikipedia. The New York *Times* for 30 October 1888 (page 2) reported an opening night full house for Coquelin at the Hollis Street Theatre in Boston on 29 October. The program included recitations and two short dramatic pieces.

Jane Hading (1859-1941) was a French actor who appeared in the 1888 productions.

Ellis: Dresel's brother. See her entry in Key to Correspondents.

Pratts: Miriam Foster Choate Pratt. Key to Correspondents.

Lodges: Mary Langdon Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

Interlaken letter: Presumably this is Dresel's letter of 21 July 1888, from "Near Interlaken."

Robert Elsemere: British novelist Mary Augusta Ward published *Robert Elsemer*e in 1888. Key to Correspondents.

Marianne: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

story: Jewett's next story to appear in *St. Nicholas* was a serial, "A Bit of Color" (1889), which was expanded into her next novel, *Betty Leicester* (1890).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Hamlin Garland

South Berwick, Maine

24 October 1888

Professor Hamlin Garland

Dear Sir

I thank you for your letter and I am much interested in what you say. I have often wondered why we read realistic sketches with such delight

when the scene is laid in foreign countries and are apt to find equally

[*Page 2*]

truthful and truly artistic sketches of our own neighborhood a trifle dull. But perhaps I do wrong in insisting that we are always as artistic in our work as our foreign neighbours. It is not the accuracy of the likeness but the artistic quality of the work that does count and should count most.

Octave Thanet's ^& Mrs Cooke's^ and Mrs [Chase-Wymans *so spelled*] and Miss Wilkins's* stories are so much

[*Page 3*]

better than all but the very best of Russian and French stories.

I listen to all that you say of the dark and troubled side of New England life. Mrs. Cooke has felt that and written it, but her Connecticut people are different from those I have known and thought most about. It is a harder fight with nature for the most part — there — and there were not such theologians in the

[*Page 4*]

old days here as in that part of New England. Yet the types of humanity are the same varied by the surroundings. I am often struck by the fact that the old fashioned people here have small vocabularies and are sure to say least when they feel most.

Later in the season, by the first of the year I come to town and I shall be glad to see you at 148 Charles Street. With best wishes for your work. Believe me

Yours truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Octave Thanet's ^& Mrs. Cooke's^ and Mrs. Chase-Wymans ... Miss Wilkins's stories: Octave Thanet is the pen name of fiction writer Alice French (1850-1934). Rose Terry Cooke (1827-1892) was an American poet and fiction writer. The Wikipedia entry on the reformer Elizabeth Buffum Chace says that her daughter, Lillie Buffum Chace Wyman (1847-1929), "became an author publishing several books and writing regularly for such magazines as *The Atlantic Monthly* in addition to being a tireless social reformer." Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman (1852-1930), a prominent New England fiction writer, had not yet married at the time of this letter. See Wikipedia for articles on each author.

This transcription is from the digital copy at the University of Southern California Digital Library, Hamlin Garland Correspondence 1864-1941: Sarah Orne Jewett letter 1888-10-24. Previous transcriber James Nagel published and discussed his transcription in "Sarah Orne Jewett Writes to Hamlin Garland," *The New England Quarterly* 54.3 (September 1981), pp. 416-23. New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

Oct 29 1888

Dear Annie Fields

I have been searching for half a day for Lord Coleridges circular* which thee sent me, and I am sorry to say I do not find it. I have been for the last week beset by company and letters and it may have been mislaid or Norah* may have thrown it into the fire in clearing up the rooms. What shall we do? I have forgotten the address of the treasurer of the fund in London{.}

[*Page 2*]

Do thee recollect it? I will write to Mr Saunders at Haverhill who I am sure will be glad ^to^ do something.

I enclose my mite, and hope thee may know how to send it, with thine & Sarah's{.}

I have had a letter from Elizabeth.* For once in her life she is perfectly happy. They are going for the winter to Hampton, Vir. Gen Armstrong* has offered them a cottage to have their love [and pleasure *?*]

[*Page 3*]

Bower of the [*unrecognized word or words*] as here the other day. He speaks well of Herbert Ward, and hopes, as we all do, for the best.

We are having a Fair this week in and of our Old Ladies Home,* and I am doing what little I can for it. As to the election* I should vote for the Republican ticket of course, but shall not try to do any more. I leave electioneering to younger hands though I am, as a friend of the colored people and of temperance, anxious for the success of the Re

[*Page 4*]

-publicans.

At last, the sun is shining this morning. The dismal gray, wet weather has been to me very hard to bear. I have been hoping all along for the Indian summer,* but I think we have lost it this year.

Sarah Jewett writes me that she is to visit thee this week. God bless you both! Ever affectionately thy friend.

John G Whittier

Thy poem in Scribners "The Poet's House"* is beautiful. I am afraid it does ^not^ quite apply to my house, but I try to keep my "door open to the sun{.}"

Notes

Lord Coleridges circular: It seems likely that Whittier refers to John Coleridge (1820-1894), who served as Lord Chief Justice of Great Britain and who was known for his support of charitable causes. While this has not been confirmed, it also seems likely that Coleridge's friendship with British poet and critic Matthew Arnold, who died in April 1888, may have led to his soliciting funds for a memorial. Fields, one of Arnold's American friends would naturally have received such a solicitation. See Whittier to Fields of 2 November 1888.

Norah: Probably a housekeeper for Whittier. More about her identity is not yet known.

Mr Saunders at Haverhill: The Saunders name was fairly common in northern Massachusetts. To which Mr. Saunders Whittier refers is not yet known, but possibly he means Thomas Sanders.

During his 1883-4 lecture tour of the United States, Matthew Arnold spoke at Trinity Episcopal Church in Haverhill on 16 November 1883. He stayed the evening at Haverhill with Thomas Sanders (1839-1911).

Sarah's: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Elizabeth: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, see Key to Correspondents.

Her marriage to the much younger author, Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932) in October 1888, caused a good deal of talk at the time.

Gen Armstrong: Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Key to Correspondents.

Old Ladies Home: The Old Ladies Home Charitable Society maintained a home for aged, impoverished women, The Amesbury and Salisbury Home for Aged Women. According to the *Newburyport and Amesbury Directory* of 1886-7, Whittier was at that time on the board of directors for the home.

the election: The national elections of 1888 took place on 6 November. Republican Benjamin Harrison defeated incumbent Democrat Grover Cleveland in the presidential race. Thomas B. Reed (1839-1902), Republican from Maine, was reelected, helping Republicans regain a majority in the House of Representatives.

Massachusetts was among many American states that wholly or partially prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The Democratic Party typically opposed prohibition at that time.

A decade after the collapse of post-Civil War Reconstruction, the Republican party struggled against advancing Democratic Party restrictions on the rights and liberties of African Americans.

Indian summer: In temperate climes, a period of warm weather after the first killing frost.

"The Poet's House": Fields's poem appeared in *Scribner's* for November 1888, p. 593. It was collected in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). Stanza 6 opens:

> Therefore the poet said:
> "Stand open, O my door!
> And bid the sun illume
> Thy sorrow-darkened floor; ...

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4833.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier
Fragment

148 Charles St. Boston

Oct. 31st 1888.

Dear friend:

You make me feel painfully conscious of my non-deserts in sending me two more volumes of this noble edition* of your poems. I am reading them all afresh and living your life, as it were, in a way I have never done before. It is a noble whole! And the favorites shine with renewed loveliness{.}

[*2*]

Many of them, notably the poem to Channing take on an altogether new lustre with the passage of time, as the value of the subject which inspired them becomes clearer to the new generations. What beautiful books they are!

Aren't you glad not to be in an unceiled house in East Gloucester this cold

[*3*]

weather! But these desperate lovers* seem to fear no rage of the elements nor the frosts of time!

Sarah* is here for a week and we went to Professor Norton's* yesterday in Cambridge to meet Monsieur Coquelin the famous French actor. He is a man full of humanities, with a tender, kindly, homely

[*4*]

face and the keenest quickest insight imaginable.

I saw a wonderful drawing there, a large picture, as if for an illuminated window, (by Burne Jones*) showing a garden fence with many flowers looking over, and one a huge rose; it was like a moon to the picture and a noble being was

arrested and gazing at it and finding a divine countenance within it. It was almost an impossible [*deletion*] subject except

[*text breaks off; no signature*]

Notes

noble edition: Whittier's *The Complete Poetic and Prose Works*, published by Houghton Mifflin in seven volumes under various titles in 1888.

lovers: Fields refers to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, who recently married the much younger author, Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932) in October 1888. See Fields to Whittier of 19 October 1888 and Key to Correspondents.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Norton's: Charles Eliot Norton. Key to Correspondents.

Coquelin: Benoît-Constant Coquelin (1841-1909) was a world-famous French actor. Wikipedia. The New York *Times* for 30 October 1888 (page 2) reported an opening night full house for Coquelin at the Hollis Street Theatre in Boston on 29 October. The program included recitations and two short dramatic pieces.

Burne Jones: Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones (1833-1898) was a British Pre-Raphaelite painter and designer. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Editor of *The Book Buyer*
Fragments

[*October 1888*]*

[*One Version*]

slightly they touch anybody else?

— But we keep the best of the old songs, only = nobody knows how many poor little boats went down in sight of land and were forgotten. I dare say by and by the critics may be sighing for these brilliant days of ours to dawn again —

I hope I shall see you soon — [what this winter hit *so it appears*] I dont expect to be in Boston much for one reason — the three [friends *written over* persons] ^with^ [whom *written over* where] I stay most, usually, each have [*three unrecognized words*]

[*Another Version*]

slightly they touch anybody else?

— But we keep the best of the old songs, only = nobody knows how many little boats went down in sight of land and are forgotten. I dare say by and by the critics may be sighing for these brilliant days of ours to [dawn *corrected*] again.

— I shall be very glad to see you ^in Boston^, indeed I am always wishing you were not so far away. But I dont know when I shall be

Notes

1888: The manuscript of these fragments is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 279, a folder of fragments.

I have built an hypothesis about this piece out of Jewett's mentioning "the best of the old songs." These pages may be drafts of a letter she sent to the Editor of *The Book Buyer* in the fall of 1888 to accompany "Old English Songs," her review of *Old Songs*, compiled and illustrated by Edwin A. Abbey and Alfred Parsons, which appeared in *The Book Buye*r (5,11: 466-468) Dec 1, 1888.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

~~Oct 8~~

Nov. 2 1888*

My dearly beloved friend,

This lovely warm Indian Summer day seems so much like Septr that I mistook the month. It was not November at all ..

I am glad thee like the books,* but pray dont take the trouble to read them. I [overlooked *?*] on the proofs there a few slight errors which will be rectified. On page 199 Vol 1, the printers [tell *?*] of "warm moonlight" instead of "noon"{.} On page (Vol 2), 187 in the [21st *corrected ?*] line of the 2d verse they have put "my" for

[*Page 2*]

"thy". I have not yet looked at the 3d or 4th vols..

I enclose $10 from my friend Mrs Lucy Kilham* 246 Commonwealth Ave. for the Arnold contribution. I think Mr. Saunders* of Haverhill will send them something. My [dear *?*] Mrs Pickard*was delighted to meet dear Sarah* in the cars the other day. She was charmed with her bright face{.}

[*Page 3*]

The idea of the Burne-Jones* picture thee speak of was very beautiful and true.

I am keeping quiet on the election but shall vote for Harrison.* I cannot shut my eyes to the total [*unrecognized word, intended* suppression *?*] of the colored vote* in at least [three *?*] southern states, and partially in all the others. Cleveland

can only be elected through this shameful denial of the rights of citizenship{.}

I wonder whether thee & Sarah will

[*Page 4*]

look into the great Women's Home Missionary Convention* now sitting in Boston. It will be worth while to do so. With all my love for you both I am most heartily thy friend.

John G Whittier

Notes

1888: At the top center of page one is the penciled number: 12.

book: The publication history of collections of Whittier's work seems confusing; see, for example, The Cambridge History of English and American Literature in 18 Volumes (1907–21). Vol. 16. Early National Literature, Part II; Later National Literature, Part I, XIII. Whittier. Two 1888 Whittier collections appear on this list. The multi-volume collection listed there is: *The Writings of John Greenleaf Whittier*. Riverside ed., 7 vols., Boston, 1888–89.

In the posthumous 1894 printing of *The Complete Poetical Works of Whittier*, the phrase "warm noon lights" appears in "St. Martin's Summer," on p. 165. Whether the errors Whittier notes in the 1888 edition were corrected in later printings of that edition is not yet known.

Lucy Kilham: Lucy A. Kilham was a Whittier correspondent, but as yet nothing more is known about her.

Mr. Saunders: Probably Whittier refers to Thomas Sanders.

During his 1883-4 lecture tour of the United States, Matthew Arnold spoke at Trinity Episcopal Church in Haverhill on 16 November 1883. He stayed the evening at Haverhill with Thomas Sanders (1839-1911). See also Whittier to Fields, 29 October 1888.

Mrs. Pickard: See Samuel T. Pickard in Key to Correspondents.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett. To meet "in the cars" is to meet on the train.

Burne-Jones: British pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones (1833-1898). Which of his works Whittier refers to is not yet known.

Harrison: The United States national elections of 1888 took place on 6 November. Republican Benjamin Harrison defeated incumbent Democrat Grover Cleveland in the presidential race. Wikipedia's election map shows that Cleveland won in all of the former Confederate states. Cleveland also won the popular vote, in part because of the disenfranchisement of African Americans in the South.

An "X" is penciled at the beginning of this paragraph.

colored vote: Whittier refers to increasingly repressive laws, particularly in southern American states, to deprive Black freedmen of the vote.

Women's Home Missionary Convention: Whittier's handwriting at this point is very difficult. While he may have written the word "missionary," this is not at all clear. I have inferred the word because there was, in fact, a convention of the Women's Home Missionary Society in Boston, beginning on 1 November 1888. The purpose of this society, founded in 1880, was "the amelioration of the conditions of the freed-women of the South." See "Lucy W. Hayes and The Woman's Home Missionary Society" by Emily A. Geer.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4653.

Sarah Orne Jewett to *The Brandon Mail* [Manitoba]

Nov 8, 1888

[*The newspaper solicited letters from professional women on the topic of whether they would vote if American women were enfranchised.*]

I believe it would have been better to carefully restrict the voting of men by high educational and certain property qualifications. But since only the matter of general representation, and not a certain degree of intelligence and knowledge of the care of property are considered in the matter of deciding upon public questions which concern women as well as men, I believe common justice gives women the right to vote. Personally, I have no wish to hasten the day when woman suffrage will be allowed, but I believe that day to be inevitable, and I should certainly consider it my duty to vote. To the plea that the ignorant vote would be so greatly increased, I maintain that women will become educated by the use and possession of their right much faster than men who have become educated, and that there will be a larger proportion of conscientious and unpartisan votes than are cast now.

Sarah Orne Jewett.

Note

Jewett's letter appeared in "WOULD WOMEN VOTE?" *The Brandon Mail* [Manitoba] — Nov 8, 1888, p. 3

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edmund Clarence Stedman

S. O. Jewett

148 Charles St. Boston

[*Autumn 1888*]*

Dear Mr Stedman,

I am so sorry to have made so much trouble. I had confidence all the time in that photograph and the way was this: poor Karl Thaxter* made a very good plate ^last spring^ and printed some of the enlarged copies so well that Mrs Fields* and others equally

[*Page 2*]

demanding thought the best of likenesses. So I asked to have a print sent on to you but very likely Mrs. Thaxter could not get hold of a good one just then. I told her that there was a hurry about it, and as I look back over the whole business I accuse myself at every turn! But the skies are not going to fall

[*Page 3*]

and we wont think of the matter again. I think that it would be a great pity to keep back the volume,* on anything of that sort.

[= *possibly in another hand*] And when you come to South Berwick you will surely find a welcome. If you come "by sea" to "The Landing" or by rail to the village the house is not far, exactly in the middle of the village in fact, with its door

[*Page 4*]

wide open. Will you thank your son* for his most kind letter of last week. My Mother was very glad to hear from him again for she has kept a most pleasant memory of that brief glimpse of him, when [| ? | *possibly in another hand*] she didnt know his name and saw him go off, as it were, into space! So we hope that he will come wayfaring again

[= *possibly in another hand*] With Mrs. Fields's best regards and mine I am yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett.

Notes

Autumn 1888: This date is speculative, based mainly upon the discussion of the Stedman volume. See notes below.

Karl Thaxter: Karl is the son of Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

the volume: This letter concerns Stedman's plan to include Jewett in his multi-volume collection, *A Library of American Literature from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*. Volume 10 appeared in 1889. It finally included a photograph of Jewett (after p. 514) and two of her pieces: "Miss Tempy's Watchers" and the poem, "A Child's Grave" (pp. 510-18). Whether the photograph is the one by Karl Thaxter, to which Jewett refers, is not yet known.

your son: Arthur Griffin Stedman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday evening.

[*Autumn 1888*]*

I have got a little cold, so I stayed in most willingly today, and have finished the Coleorton letters.* I long to have you begin them, or to begin them over again with you. I suppose that some or many of them must be printed elsewhere, I am too ignorant to say; but Wordsworth's and Dorothy's letters are more delightful and wise and like their best selves than any words of mine can say. Coleridge's, too, follow his varying fortunes and ailments over hill and dale. In Wordsworth's there is a delectable account of his planning and overseeing a "winter garden" for the Beaumonts, which I hope we shall go to see, some day, and there are particulars now and then about how the evergreens grow, and he writes inscriptions for it, and it is a great play! But Dorothy! how charming she grows as one grows older and learns to know her better. How much that we call Wordsworth himself was Dorothy to begin with. Wordsworth's letters so often make me think of Mr. Arnold. He would love the book — but I am in such a hurry to get you at it.

"Existence is the most frivolous thing in the world if one does not conceive it as a great and continual duty."* I am so glad you told me to read this, for I might never have gone back to it of my own accord.

I have such a charming new book, the "Life of William Barnes" the Dorset poet, by his daughter.* There is almost too much of his own poetry sandwiched in, which delays the run of the biography (to me) — not but what I love some of the poems very much. He is like the parish priest in the "Deserted Village," — [with the wonder] "that one small head could carry all he knew"!* I think it would be a lovely thing to make a paper for the "Atlantic" or some of the magazines. If I had been to his village, how I should love to do it, and

there is my priest of Morwenstow waiting yet!* Perhaps they will be nice things to do this winter?

Notes

Autumn 1888: The notes below indicate the Jewett was reading new books that had appeared late in 1887 and in 1888, and that she was looking forward to reading some titles in the coming winter.

Coleorton Letters: *Memorials of Coleorton* (1887) was reviewed in *Atlantic* 61 (February 1888) 270-76: "Being Letters from Coleridge, Wordsworth and his Sister, Southey and Sir Walter Scott, to Sir George and Lady Beaumont, of Coleorton, Leicestershire, 1803 to 1834. Edited, with introduction and notes by William Knight, University of St. Andrews. Two volumes. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1887."

great and continual duty: The quotation is from Ernest Renan, *Souvenirs d'Enfance et de Jeunesse* (1874), English translation: *Recollections of My Youth* (1883). The quotation appears in a review of an 1883 French edition in *The Atlantic Monthly* 52 Issue 310 (August 1883) pp. 274-282. Jewett's quotation is from the *Atlantic* review and not from the 1883 translation, which appears as follows:

> I was so well prepared for the good and for the true, that I could not possibly have followed a career which was not devoted to the things of the mind. My masters rendered me so unfit for any secular work that I was perforce embarked upon a spiritual career. . . . I no longer believe Christianity to be the supernatural summary of all that man can know; but I still believe that existence is the most frivolous of things unless it is regarded as one great and constant duty. (126)

The *Atlantic* translation may seem "toned down" in its religious radicalism:

> I was so effectually made up for the good, for the true, that it would have been impossible for me to follow any career not directed to the things of the soul. My masters rendered me so unfit for all temporal work that I was stamped with an irrevocable mark for the spiritual life. . . . I persist in believing that existence is the most frivolous thing in the world, if one does not conceive it as a great and continual duty. (281)

his daughter: William Barnes (1801-1886) was "the Dorset poet." *The Life of William Barnes, Poet and Philologist* by "Leader Scott" was published by Lucy Baxter (1837-1902) in 1887.

all he knew: Oliver Goldsmith (c. 1730-1774), British writer, published his poem "The Deserted Village" in 1770. Jewett quotes from the description of the village schoolmaster (about line 216):

> Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around;
> And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew,
> That one small head could carry all he knew.

my priest of Morwenstow: Wikipedia says: "Robert Stephen Hawker (3 December 1803 - 15 August 1875) was an Anglican priest, poet, antiquarian of Cornwall and reputed eccentric.... Hawker was ordained in 1831, becoming curate at North Tamerton and then, in 1834, vicar of the church at Morwenstow, where he remained throughout his life." It seems likely Jewett was looking forward to reading *The Vicar of Morwenstow: A Life of Robert Stephen Hawker* (1888) by Sabine Baring-Gould.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals.

[*10 November 1888*]*

Dearest Annie:

Next week I hope to be off — since my roots are half pulled up & most of my earthly belongings [now *?*] are in Ports. & Dena* proves excellent & all seems favorable —

I write this little word just to say I am "a truly" grandmother at last, & Roland* sent me a tiny satin lock of little Charles Eliot Thaxter's hair in his last letter, for he has named his boy after his best friend. I trust all is going well, as it was a week ago, with mother and child, but these

[*Page 2*]

long waits of a week between mails are <u>most</u> trying at this anxious time.

Dear, did you think I was extravagant in saying I liked your poem* better than anything you ever did? Because it just fitted my particular idiosyncrasies, you know!

My dear love to you & Pinny*

Your loving

C.

[*Notes from left of the fold on page 1*]

[*Written horizontally to page 1*]

Mr. Lamb* says the boy you know of is doing well.

[*Upside down in relation to page 1*]

Martha Goddard* is dying of apoplexy{.} She is [*unrecognized word* unconscious *?*]

Notes

10 November 1888: This date is penciled on the manuscript, presumably by Fields and Rose Lamb as they prepared portions of this letter for inclusion in *Letters of Celia Thaxter*. No rationale is given, but the date must be close, as it falls between the birth of Thaxter's grandchild, Charles Eliot Thaxter, and the death of Martha Goddard. See notes below.

Dena: Ladene Knutsen. See Thaxter to Fields of 17 October 1888.

Roland: Thaxter's youngest son, married Mabel G. Freeman. Their first son, Charles Eliot Thaxter, was born 31 October 1888. The friend after whom the child was named is not certain, but a likely candidate is the American landscape architect, Charles Eliot (1859-1897), a fellow student of Roland Thaxter at Harvard.

poem: It is likely Thaxter refers to Fields's "The Poet's House," which appeared in *Scribner's* 5 (November 1888), p. 593.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mr. Lamb: Horace or Horatio Lamb, brother of Rose Lamb. See Rose Lamb in key to Correspondents.

Martha Goddard: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-14 November 1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Preston Waters, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874). She was married to the journalist Delano Alexander Goddard (1831-1882).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, California: James Thomas Fields Papers and Addenda (1767-1914), mss FI 1-5637, Box 63 FI 1- 4222.

Fields and Lamb Transcription for *Letters of Celia Thaxter*

I write this little word just to say I am "a truly" grandmother at last, and Roland sent me a tiny satin lock of little Charles Eliot Thaxter's hair in his last letter, for he has named his boy after his best friend. I trust all is going well, as it was a week ago, with mother and child, but these long waits of a week between mails are *most* trying at this anxious time.

Dear, did you think I was extravagant in saying I liked your poem better than anything you ever did? Because it just fitted my particular idiosyncrasies, you know!

Celia Thaxter to John Greenleaf Whittier

Shoals. 10th Nov. (88

Not yet away, dear friend, but probably next week will see my poor Karl* & me established in Portsmouth for the winter.

I thank you heartily for your dear letter, but I wish I could think of you as stronger & better in health. When one's body becomes a burthen instead of a good servant then life is truly not easy for us.

I wish you had Mohini's translation of the Bhagavad Gîtâ, with every word in it made lucid as crystal, or that I [were *corrected*] near enough to run in & spend an hour with thee now & then & read it aloud! I think the heavenly introduction Mohini has written for it, is as helpful as the book itself. Do

[*Page 2*]

send & get it! If I were anywhere where I could reach it I would send it. The print is large & clear. In my copy I have written out in the margin all the verses from our Scriptures quoted by Mohini, which are often couched in the very same language as in the Bhagavad Gita. "Truth is one" — Falsehood is folly [and *?*] many, but Truth is One.

In my copy of Molinos* the preface is written by [J. *?*] Henry Shorthouse who wrote John Inglesant, & he says of the calumnies with which the world tried to blacken Molinos, "the real charge was that he had been a man of impure life, an accusation which

[*Page 3*]

has never been wanting against an enemy whom the Jesuits wished to get rid of" — That is an accusation a blind & besotted world brought against Mohini — it does not need Jesuits always to attack the whiteness of a soul pure as [unsunned *?*] snow. "No more cruel & unjust charges could have been brought against any man," goes on [Molinos' *?*]* biographer. [This same holds true of Mohini who was only sorry *?*] for his madness. If you read the introduction to the Bhagavad Gîtâ, & Mohini's translation of it, you would know what kind of man he was — He has gone back to his family & is living in Calcutta with his wife & child & parents & all of them, & practicing law & doing good every instant that he lives.

[*Page 4*]

To think of Lily Phelps!* Truly as I told Annie Fields,* you might have knocked me down with a feather when I heard the news, so astounded was I! Nature was too strong for her after ^all^, tho she fought a desperate fight & almost perished in the

fray! No more "nervous prostration" for her! Now what will she write, I wonder!

I am a real "truly" grandmother! My Roland* sent me a lock of his little boy's hair last week — What do you think of that! My poor Karl is 38 years old, & I am fifty three. How soon it will be all done! as the Sanskrit says, "Man's life is no more than a flash of lightning across the sky." I wonder who has come back again in little Charles Eliot Thaxter? I look at children now with such new intensity{,} beholding them chafe against our limitations, &

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

thinking, "No wonder! A little while ago they were receiving all the honors of life!" But you are so good, I dont believe you'll ever have to come back again for the hard lessons of this world!

Your loving, faithful friend

Celia Thaxter

Notes

Karl: Thaxter's oldest son.

Mohini's: Mohini Mohun Chatterji (1858-1936) was a Bengali attorney and scholar who became a prominent representative of Theosophy during the 1880s, taking his message to England and Ireland, as well as to the United States, where he visited in 1887. See Diane Sasson, *Yearning for a New Age* (2012), pp. 173-179.

Chatterji's translation of *The Bhagavad Gîtâ ; or, The Lord's lay: with commentary and notes, as well as references to the Christian scriptures* appeared in 1887. Thaxter varies her spelling of the title.

Molinos: The Spanish Christian mystic and quietist, Miguel de Molinos (1628-1696).

British Quaker novelist, Joseph Henry Shorthouse (1834-1903), was the author of *John Inglesant* (1876). Wikipedia.

Shorthouse published *Golden Thoughts from The Spiritual Guide of Miguel Molinos, the Quietist* in 1883. Thaxter quotes from p. 23.

Phelps: Thaxter refers to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, who married the much younger author, Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932) in October 1888. See Fields to Whittier of 19 October 1888 and Key to Correspondents.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Roland: Thaxter's youngest son, biologist Roland Thaxter and his wife, Mabel, had their first son, Charles Eliot Thaxter, on 31 October 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

46, State St. Portsmouth.

Nov. [15 *corrected from* 14] (88 *

My dearest Pin:

I thank you so much for the dear letter. We came over day before yesterday — I am pretty tired, but it is beautiful here — Just as soon as we are shaken down a little, do, dear Pinny, come & see your Sandpiper.

I am feeling so anxious about my poor, poor Karl* — He seems

[*Page 2*]

to be losing his hold — I cannot keep him up as I did, — not my fault, but the heavier pressure of misfortune on him — He falls into such deep & miserable depression — O for some power to save him, to lift him out of it! He sits and weeps for hours. No reason, only the heavy hand of Fate. Dont speak of it to anyone —

I am tired & can't write, Pin, dearest — Will write again, & long to have you come to your

Sandpiper

Notes

88: Thaxter's second digit is ambiguous. Rosamond Thaxter, her granddaughter and previous transcriber, read it first as 6 and then as 9. To me, it looks more like 8, and so I have rendered it, but only tentatively. Almost certainly it is from between 1886 and 1888.

Karl: Thaxter's disabled oldest son.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence MS Am 1743 Box 4, item 211. Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) 1835-1894. 10 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1888-1890 & [n.d.], 1888-1890.

A typescript is held by the Portsmouth Athenaeum MS129, Rosamond Thaxter's Papers for *Sandpiper*, Folder 12: Correspondence: Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1888-1893. New transcription and notes.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Saturday — Nov. 17th 88.

My beloved friend:

Your beautiful poem in memory of R.S.S. at least will stir the fountain of tears in the heart of his [lonely *or* lovely] companion{.} It must make the weight of years sit lightly to be able [to *corrected*] help others as you can do. Let us rejoice for that

[*Page 2*]

when the years seem long —

What wondrous days we are having just now — and nights — and mornings set like jewels between stretches of dark ones still. I trust that New England will be watered for once in its thirsty life!

I seem to have a great many things I wish to talk of with you. I trust the Boston visit may come off before the

[*Page 3*]

icy weather really sets in.

You knew Mrs Goddard!* She has slipped quietly away from us. I did not think she would be the one to go before us. But she has suffered greatly from her solitary life — or homelessness I should say — for she had many friends.

I saw Dr. Holmes* about the memorial to Matthew Arnold* and he will send his contribution at once. He is very well

[*Page 4*]

and spoke of you with tender regard — He had a toy — a doll which was wound up and gave me a recitation from Mother Goose! It was one of Edison's cylinders. The effect was startling enough.

He saw Mrs Herbert Ward* at the reception in Cambridge. She looked fresh and blooming; he said, "I did not think there were fires to warm that vestal{.}" He admires her very much but she has taken us all so by surprise that we must have our own friendly fling at her in return!

Good night, dear friend{.} Forgive my blotting [ples *?*] —

yours lovingly

Annie Fields.

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

The Haverhill home has left a beautiful and indelible

[*Up the right margin of page 1*]

picture in my mind — It was a perfect evening.

Notes

R.S.S.: Richard Smith Spofford, spouse of Harriet Prescott Spofford, died on 11 August 1888. Key to Correspondents. Whittier's memorial sonnet was "R.S.S., At Deer Island on the Merrimac."

Goddard: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829- 14 November 1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Preston Waters, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874).

Dr. Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

Matthew Arnold: Key to Correspondents. Presumably American friends of Arnold (1822-1888) contributed to placing the bust of Arnold in Westminster Abbey in 1891. See Whittier to Fields of 29 October 1888.

Edison's cylinders: American inventor Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) invented a sound playback device using wax-coated cylinders. In Wikipedia, see entries on Edison and on "Edison's Phonograph Doll."

Mrs Herbert Ward: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South = Berwick Maine

26 November — [*1888*]

My dear Friend

"I have written this story and my friends think it ought to be printed" - - - - - - you can fill up the rest of the form!

I have a sense of doubt about it which encourages me to hope that you will think it better than the Dulham Ladies and Miss Tempy.* At any rate it

[*Page 2*]

is short and wont take much of your time — It has taken a good deal of mine, but that's no matter — Next week I hope to be in town for a few days and then I mean to tell Lilian* how lovely I thought your poem in Harper's.* ~~was~~. I have read it again and mean to keep on reading it until the magazine is unkindly put away — for it is as charming as the girl herself could

[*Page 3*]

possibly have been. I wish that I could hear all about it — and where she bloomed and when!

Yours affectionately

S. O. J.

Dont tell me that she didn't
bloom at all!

But the story would have a mark of $75. if you could use it. And I hate to mix business with pleasure in this way.

Notes

1888: This date is supported mainly by the circumstances of Aldrich's poem about a young woman from December 1888 fitting Jewett's description of his newly published poem and

Jewett having recently published "Miss Tempy's Watchers." See notes below and Jewett's 27 November letter to Annie Fields.

Miss Tempy: Jewett's "Miss Tempy's Watchers" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (61:289-295), March 1888. "The Dulham Ladies" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1886. Jewett's first story to appear in *Atlantic* in 1889 was "A Winter Courtship" in February (5:100-112). In her letter to Annie Fields of 27 November 1888, she reports sending this story to Aldrich.

Lilian: Lilian Woodman Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

poem in Harper's: If this letter is indeed from 1888, then of Aldrich's two poems to appear in *Harper's Magazine* that year, the more likely would be "At a Reading" (78: 38) December 1888, in which the narrator at a dry academic lecture is inspired by a beautiful young woman, remembering her after as William Wordsworth recalled his daffodils.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Tuesday afternoon

27 November 1888

Dear Fuff —

I have been copying this Sonnet of Pinny!!* for you — Sandpiper* had kindly preserved it in a book with writings of the great — and seemed to set store by it, but as for me I had forgotten it altogether. I remembered later that I had used it in a sketch — the notion of it — in a prose sentence or two.

This is Wednesday morning and an asking Pinny about Mrs.

[*Page 2*]

Whitman's fair* — Do you know yet when it is going to be? I dont want to miss it because the parish fair here comes off pretty soon and we are so busy about it already by fits and starts — (I saw such pretty things there last year: I have an idea that it is next week.)* Could you ask if you dont know, Marigold* might be hearing about it. Coolidge* always ensues too. dear old Coolidge I really want to see her and to have words about my St. Nicholas story* — I am in

[*Page 3*]

a very discouraged frame about that sometimes lest it should be a tame dull thing to the youthful mind — I sent off the Winter Courtship sketch* (of the old mail carrier and Sister Tobin you remember) to the Linnet* yesterday and I have also put Capn Ball* in order to go to Mr. Alden,* but I dont believe I shall send it just yet after all. There are two new ones in my mind and I shall try to write them after next week.

Here it is clearing off again and I must say that I am thankful. One is so shut up

[*Page 4*]

here in such bad weather, (and I have had plenty of delightful outdoor flings of late — I am glad that you are going to Judy's* tomorrow dear little Fuff how I shall think of you and be loving you and hoping that all is going well. I suppose you — have been ever so busy this last day or two — Your own

Pinny.)

Notes

Sonnet of Pinny: Jewett is not known to have published a sonnet after the composition date of this letter. Only a few sonnets by Jewett are so far known, two of which were not published. There is a manuscript sonnet from the Louise Chandler Moulton papers: "Why do I love you?" Ideas from this poem would seem common in Jewett's stories.

While there is no certainty that Jewett refers to it, the second manuscript sonnet seems more likely: "A Sonnet on Meeting Ralph Waldo Emerson," which appears complete in a posthumously published Jewett story, "Carlyle in America." Fields includes this poem in her 1911 collection of letters, saying: "One day these verses came with the usual bulletin of prose."

Sandpiper: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

Whitman's fair: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

week: The parenthesis marks here appear to be by Jewett. Those at the end of the letter are penciled in, probably by Annie Fields.

Marigold: Mary Langdon Greenwood (Mrs. James) Lodge, editor of *St. Nicholas Magazine*. Key to Correspondents.

Coolidge: Probably Sarah Chauncey Woolsey, who published under the name, Susan Coolidge. Key to Correspondents.

St. Nicholas story: Presumably, Jewett was working on "A Bit of Color," a group of sketches that appeared in *St. Nicholas* (16:456-463; 514-523; 572-580) in April, May, and June, 1889. They were expanded and published as *Betty Leicester* in 1890.

Winter Courtship: Jewett's "A Winter Courtship" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (63:145-150) in February 1889.

Linnet: Thomas Bailey Aldrich at *Atlantic Monthly*. Key to Correspondents.

Capn Ball: Jewett's "The Taking of Captain Ball" appeared in *Harper's Magazine* (80:141-151) in December 1889.

Mr. Alden: Henry Mills Alden of *Harper's Magazine*. Key to Correspondents.

Judy's: Probably Annie Fields's niece, Judith Drew Beal. See Annie Adams Fields in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

George Washington Cable to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin Letterhead*]

PARADISE ROAD,

NORTHAMPTON, MASS., Nov 29, 1888*

[*End Letterhead*]

My dear Miss Jewett:

I have been reading your book "The King of Folly Island."* You name your story well. I have not read all those in this book. But I began with Sister Wisby as you directed. It is an exquisitely exact picture. Do you ever inveigh against realism? Thou art the woman! I feel the cold [sterility *corrected*] of the unjuiciest New England life curdle all my blood, as I read.

Not that this stands alone. The homely companionship with nature; that unconscious or only half-conscious, that unemotional perception of her grace and loveliness, are masterfully set forth. It is the very [summation *?*] of New England.

I like Law Lane. I like the story only less than I abhor the [reality *corrected*] that justifies the story.

But I find myself writing

[*Page 2*]

a letter while my stenographer sits at the desk by the window trying to fill in the time. I must break off with a simple renewal of thanks and prayer to you to write more. Mrs. Cable sends love.

Yours truly

J. W. Cable

I send a copy of Bonaventure.*

Notes

1888: Month and day are handwritten in a blank space in the letterhead.

"The King of Folly Island": The title story of Jewett's 1888 story collection, which also contains "The Courting of Sister Wisby" and "Law Lane."

Bonaventure: Cable's novel, *Bonaventure: A Prose Pastoral of Acadian Louisiana* (1888).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Cable, George Washington, 1844-1925. 1 letter; 1888, bMS Am 1743 (36).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

Friday night —

[*30 November 1888*]*

Dearest:

Abby May* is dead. She was at the Homeopathic Hospital where they ~~have~~ ^seem^ not ^to have^ understood her case. It was an ovarian tumor{.} Marigold* walked round tonight to see me and Olive Warren* and to tell me — I think she suspects her own condition. She had a room full of friends this afternoon, but she said she had been at home all day and she longed to get out —

[*Page 2*]

How glad I am to think you are to be here — Harriet Hosmer* comes to tea tomorrow P.M — Isa Gray* came at dusk last night about the suffrage{.} What with this work and Mr Brooks's* fair and now this loss of Mifs May{,} Mrs Whitman will be overwhelmed this week — Good night darling —

Ever most lovingly yours

A.F.

Notes

1888: Assuming that Abby May is correctly identified below, then the date of this letter would be Friday 30 November 1888.

Abby May: Probably this is Abigail Williams “Abby” May (1829 - 30 November 1888). A social reformer, she was a founder of the obstetrics clinic of the New England Female Medical College. She also was an abolitionist, suffragist, and a leader in educational reform for women, African Americans and immigrants. Find a Grave.

Other persons named in this letter:

Marigold: Mary Greenwood Lodge, who died a year later. Key to Correspondents.

Olive Warren: This transcription is uncertain, this person not yet identified.

Harriet Hosmer: American sculptor, Harriet Goodhue Hosmer (1830-1908). Wikipedia

Isa Gray: Probably American social reformer, Isa Elizabeth Gray (1841-1923). Find a Grave.

Mr Brooks: This transcription is somewhat uncertain, but probably this is Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs Whitman: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 16 letters; 1894-1901 & [n.d.], 1894-1901 bMS Am 1743 (Box 2: 64).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

47. State St. Portsmouth. N.H.

Nov. 30th (88

My dearest Annie:

Your note was most welcome, as always, & a week has flown away so fast since it was written! — I am much better I am thankful to say, for I have to be busy continually now with brush & pen to keep my head above water with all the thousand & one necessities of even so small housekeeping — wood & coal & kerosene! How many things there be! I write a "poem" for my kitchen stove & another for my parlor carpet & another for the parlor stove & another for my sheets & pillow cases & so on & I'm glad it doesnt last all the year round!

[*Page 2*]

In the spring I shall be free of the anxiety again, when we flit away. But I enjoy the little house greatly, quaint & comfortable & cosy & pretty & bright it is — My plants are so delightful — And my little [neices *so this appears*] are so charming. I have the place for three years, & shall probably keep it longer. But who knows from one instant of time to another what one will do! Verily no living creature on this footstool! I did enjoy seeing Pinny* so much. She was so sweet & dear — it did me good. I am living in hopes of seeing you some day, you dear Flower. When you are all ready &

[*Page 3*]

see the time, drop me a line & I'll meet you at the station, & <u>how</u> glad I shall be to see you I cannot say.

Poor Mary Lodge.* I'm so sorry for her — Your mention of the concert makes me wish for the music, but I had such a feast all summer, I ought to be content — And I am, & very thankful into the bargain, to be better, to be within reach of the mail where I can hear from my dear children & friends. Charles Eliot Thaxter* is thriving, & a great wonder & delight to his parents. When I shall see the dear baby I really don't know!

[*Page 4*]

I hope Ap. Brown's* exhibit was a success. Pinny said you did get the sonnet & did like it — I am so glad! I expect to see the Ross Turners* here before long — Do write when you can. I know how busy you are, but you always do do everything & more too!

With love & love ever your

C.

Notes

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mary Lodge: Mary Langdon Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents. She died on 21 December 1889.

Charles Eliot Thaxter: Roland Thaxter's son, Charles Eliot (1888-1906), Thaxter's grandson. Key to Correspondents.

Ap Brown: John Appleton Brown. Key to Correspondents. After 1879, Brown had an annual exhibition at Boston's Doll and Richards gallery. Brown gave Thaxter some painting lessons.

sonnet: While it is possible Thaxter refers to a sonnet of her own, Jewett's letter to Fields of 27 November 1888 included a copy of a forgotten sonnet by Jewett that Thaxter has kept. See the notes for that letter. Jewett is not known to have published a sonnet after the composition date of this letter.

Ross Turners: Ross Sterling Turner (1847-1914) was a painter, watercolorist, and illustrator, and a mentor to Celia Laighton Thaxter. See notes for Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford of Sunday morning, March 1884.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 5 (230-249) .

Abby Adeline Manning* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Haverhill. Dec. 1<u>st</u>:

[*1888*]*

Dear whaler o' mine, your [*blot*] letter was forwarded to me here, and reached me therefore only last night. I hope you have not been drowned

in the meantime as I am sure you will be if you continue to sail with a galler sail in a birchbark* canoe.

The terrible blot at the head of this was caused by my putting down my pen and going to perform a surgical operation on Miss Loring's* finger. I love to prick things.

[*Page 2*]

Do you? Harry* says that what I really like in the way of riding and driving is a stable full of sick horses.

On Saturday I am going up, I think, to Marigold's, and shall see Mrs. Fields* — perhaps you also. It is only for the Sunday. Shall you be there of a Monday before 2.15, at which time I betake me to your native wharves —

I wish I had a house there,

[*Page 3*]

that I might ask you to come with me. At any rate, next summer, notwithstanding the reluctance you showed to come a day; I may say the immediate indigestion of all the widespread dates I mentioned — you will come to Maltapay.

Sincerely yours

a.a.m.

Notes

1888: This date is highly speculative. Mary Greenwood Lodge, mentioned in this letter, died after along illness on 21 December 1889. Jewett's correspondence of 1888 suggests that Jewett first became acquainted with Katharine Loring and her sister in the spring of 1888. If Miss Loring is correctly identified, then it seems probable that this letter was written after she and Jewett became acquainted, and 1888 would have to be the year of this letter.

Manning: The initials in the signature of the letter are ambiguous. While the A's seem clear, the author's M and W look so much alike that Houghton Library archivists have read the signature W. Because this signature is virtually identical to that of a letter to Jewett of 22 December 1902, almost certainly the author was Abby Adeline Manning. See Anne Whitney in Key to Correspondents.

birchbark: Before this word is a mark which may be a quotation mark.

Manning seems clearly to have written "galler," but the meaning of this term is not known. Perhaps she meant a gaffer or a gale or a galley sail?

Miss Loring's: Among Jewett's correspondents were three Miss Lorings. Probably this is Katharine Peabody Loring. Key to Correspondents.

Harry: This person has not yet been identified.

Marigold ... Fields: Marigold was Mary Greenwood Lodge. Annie Adams Fields.

Maltapay: This transcription is uncertain, and the apparent place it names as yet unknown. If the letter is correctly dated, then Manning may refer here in some way to the New Hampshire farm Whitney purchased in 1888. See Anne Rebecca Whitney at Find a Grave.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 5, Item 225. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

The Atlantic Monthly,

BOSTON.

[*End letterhead*]

[*Early December 1888*]*

Dear Sadie:

The winter courtship is charming, just as charming as if it were summer. [I've not *?*], time to say this. Next week I'll see you and tell you about [Hypatia *?*].*

Ever yours

T.B.A.

Friday Noon.

Notes

1888: Jewett's "A Winter Courtship" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in February 1889. See Jewett to Annie Adams Fields of 27 November 1888.

Hypatia: If this transcription is correct, Aldrich may be referring to his poem, "At a Reading," which was collected in *The Sisters' Tragedy*, *with other Poems* (1891).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743 (4).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday afternoon

[*December, 1888*]*

Dear Fuff —

I had just been reading Mr. Arnold's essay on George Sand* and finished it with tears in my eyes. How beautiful and how full of inspiration it is! We cannot be grateful enough to either of them, and yet how little I really know her books! I am willing to study French very hard all winter in order to read her comfortably in the spring! You will say Pinny of lofty impulses and

[*Page 2*]

and ignoble achievements! which is quite true, for here her own conscience makes her write it down. But she is worked Oh, such a pincushion! and will show it to you before it is given away. —

This morning at church I was dreadfully bored with a sermon, and I made up a first-rate story* which will have to be written very soon after Christmas. I must tell you all about it. How soon we shall

[*Page 3*]

be talking now, if all goes well, and good-bye to letters for a while. Tomorrow I shall be busy getting my things together and doing up Christmas bundles — I am not sure whether I shall take the half past ten train or the half past two so go your ways dear Fuff and I hope you will find me there when you come home to dinner.

P. L.

Notes

1888: In notes at the top right of page 1, Fields assigns this letter to December 1888, having deleted November. There is no corroborating evidence for this choice in the letter. In the material Fields has added from one or more other letters, the Tolstoi story Jewett mentions became available in English in 1887.

Mr. Arnold's e*ssay on George Sand*: Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) published "George Sand" in *The Fortnightly Review* in June of 1877; it was reprinted in *Mixed Essays* in 1879. George Sand (Amandine-Aurore Lucille Dupin, Baronne Dudevant, 1804-1876) was a productive French novelist, remembered also for her love affairs with the painter Alfred de Musset and the pianist-composer, Frederic Chopin.

first-rate story: If the composition date is correct, then in 1889, Jewett published several stories that could have been inspired by a boring sermon: "Going to Shrewsbury," "Dan's Wife," "Dolly Franklin's Decision" and "The Taking of Captain Ball." Though she also published "The White Rose Road" in this year, she identifies a different origin for that sketch, revisiting its setting during a spring drive, in a letter of Decoration Day, 30 May 1889.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 38.

Sunday afternoon, *December*, 1888.

I had just been reading Mr. Arnold's essay on George Sand, and finished it with tears in my eyes. How beautiful, and how full of inspiration it is! We cannot be grateful enough to either of them, and yet how little I really know her books! I am willing to study French very hard all winter in order to read her comfortably in the spring!

This morning at church I was dreadfully bored with a sermon, and I made up a first-rate story which will have to be written very soon after Christmas. I must tell you all about it. How soon we shall be talking now, if all goes well, and good-bye to letters for a while. Tomorrow I shall be busy getting my things together, and doing up Christmas bundles. I am not sure whether I shall take the half past ten train or the half past two, so go your ways, dear, and I hope you will find me there when you come home to dinner.

[*From this point on, Fields presents material from one or more other letters.*]

That story of Tolstoi's was such an excitement that I did not sleep until almost morning.* What a wonderful thing it is! I long to talk with you about it, but do let us think a good deal. It startled me because I was dimly feeling the same kind of motive (not the same plan) in writing the "Gray Man."* Nobody cared much for it, but it is the same sort of story, it is there. I wish that you would look it over and see. I believed in that story so that I would have published it if I had to make the type. If I can only feel that I am in the right road, in one sense nothing else matters. I have felt something of what Tolstoi has been doing all the way along. I can tell you half a dozen stories where I tried to say it, "Lady Terry,"* "Beyond the Toll-gate" and this "Gray Man." Now and then it came clearer to me. I never felt the soul of Tolstoi's work until last night, something of it in Katia, but now I know what he means, and I know that I can dare to keep at the work I sometimes have despaired about because you see people are always caught by

fringes of it and liked the stories if they liked them at all for some secondary quality. I know there is something true, and yet I myself have often looked only at the accidental and temporary part of them.

Another postcard from Mr. Freeman.# He has found about Maurice!! and is more friendly than ever. How can I live up to this correspondence? I am going to head him off and keep him quiet for a while by telling him that I have only a few of my books at hand.

Fields's note

#The historian.*

Notes on the added material.

That story of Tolstoi's: Leo Tolstoy's (1828-1910) *Katia* appeared in English translation in 1887.

"*Gray Man*": "The Gray Man," according to Weber and Weber in *A Bibliography of the Published Writings of Sarah Orne Jewett* (p. 11) was rejected by Thomas Bailey Aldrich for *Atlantic Monthly*. It first appeared in *A White Heron and Other Stories* (1886).

"Lady Terry": Jewett probably meant to write (or Fields to transcribe), "Lady Ferry," which had been published in *Old Friends and New* (1879).

Mr. Freeman ... Maurice: Jewett corresponded with Edward Augustus Freeman, author of *History of the Norman Conquest*, during her work on *The Story of the Normans*. A letter to Jewett from Freeman of November 20, 1887 speculates about the identity of "Maurice." See Silverthorne, p. 133.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

47. State St. Portsmouth N.H.

Dec. 7th (88

This dear little book!* It is more beautiful than words can tell, & I thank you for it a thousand times. I read it every day — it is what I want so much — I am going to get the selections from John Tauler* — have you seen them? Rose Lamb* had a book out of the Library that was the most wonderful of books, & she gave it to Mohini* to read, & he said he hadn't seen any thing to compare with it. It must be from this book the selections are made which I see are advertised at the back, or rather at the first part of this dear little book.

[*Page 2*]

I am so much better, dear Annie, really begin to feel like myself again & able to work a little once more. I think by spring I shall be quite well again — I have untold anxieties about Karl* every few days, but otherwise it has been most pleasant & happy here, & so pretty & bright & cheerful!

I hope you are well & not doing too much, dear. My dearest of love & thanks to you

Your loving

C.

Notes

book: Which book Thaxter refers to is difficult to determine, but it seems clear that the title must deal in some way with a topic of considerable interest to Thaxter at this time, Theosophy, a religious system to which she turned after becoming disillusioned with Spiritualism, according to Norma Mandel in *Beyond the Garden Gate* (pp. 127-8). It would seem likely, then, that Fields has given Thaxter a book of "selections" on this topic, of which several appeared during 1887-1888.

John Tauler: Johannes Tauler (c. 1300-1361) was a German Catholic mystic and universalist theologian. It seems likely that Thaxter refers to *Selections from the life and sermons of the Reverend Doctor John Tauler* (Boston 1888).

Rose Lamb: Key to Correspondents.

Mohini: Mohini Mohun Chatterji (1858-1936) was a Bengali attorney and scholar who became a prominent representative of Theosophy during the 1880s, taking his message to England and Ireland, as well as to the United States, where he visited in 1887. See Diane Sasson, *Yearning for a New Age* (2012), pp. 173-179.

Karl: Thaxter's disabled adult son. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 5 (230-249).

Sarah Orne Jewett to William De Witt Hyde

South Berwick Maine

9 December 1888

President Hyde

My dear Sir —

A day or two ago I was in Boston and Mrs Fields* and I were remembering our pleasant morning with you at the College and wishing, beside, that you could know how much we were interested in your paper* in the last Atlantic. I said that

[*Page 2*]

I would certainly venture to write to you, and Mrs. Fields wished to send you her best thanks with mine, for it is a long time since we have had so significant and helpful and suggestive a piece of writing in relation to schools and colleges. The

only fault that people find with it is that it is too short. I do not believe you know how much it has

[*Page 3*]

been liked — it was Mr. Aldrich* who in talking it over made the above criticism — a very uncommon one for an editor!

Now that I have 'said my say' — I remember that I have had something else in mind and for a longer time — There is an old friend of mine and perhaps of yours too — the Rev^{d} David Sewall* brother of the Professor and a graduate of the college — who has lately

[*Page 4*]

retired from his long pastorate at York and come here to live. He is a man of uncommon character and saintliness of life, of the old school of ministers and now advanced in years. I think it is one of the cases where a degree of Doctor of Divinity would be a great joy and fitting reward, and I wish that it were possible for the college to bestow it — I need not say to you that this is my own secret plan and that no hint of it shall be

[*Page 5*]

[be *repeated*] given. It came to my mind once and I determined to ask you about it if I should be so fortunate as to see you again — M^{rs} Fields and I both hope that you will give us that pleasure if you are in town in the winter —

Pray believe me, with high regard

Yours very truly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

paper: Hyde's "The Future of the Country College" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* v. 62; Issue 374 (December 1888) 721-726.

Aldrich: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

*David Sewall ... professo*r: Rev. David Brainerd Sewall (1817-1907). His brother, Rev. Jotham Bradbury Sewall (1825-1913), for several years served as Professor of Greek at Bowdoin College. While Jotham Sewall received a Doctor of Divinity in 1902, the year after Jewett received her honorary degree, David Sewall did not receive this recognition.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 3 Folder 155.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford

South Berwick

9 December 1888

Dear Professor Horsford

I came home from Boston yesterday (after a very busy few days in which I had no time to get as far as Craigie Street)* and found your kind note and the map — Thank you very much

[*Page 2*]

for both — now that the snow is falling in good earnest, I suppose that all explorations must cease for a time. After all the chief proof of early occupation here lies in the antiquity of the name Vineyard.* It has always dated back to the time of Sir Ferdinand Gorges'*

[*Page 3*]

governorship and I cant help thinking that something more than the mere presence of wild grapes must have given rise to it — My father said that in his boyhood there were vines still — but I dont know exactly <u>where</u> they grew — ^I do not know of any there now.^ To call a place a vineyard implies handiwork and planted vines. We have wild ones in different places about here but

[*Page 4*]

they are less common than in your part of Massachusetts though not rare — Evidently the piece of flat land now overflowed by the lower dam was once a fertile bit of meadow — and I wish that I could have taken you down ^as^ near the "Indian" mound as possible — I cant get reconciled to your going away so soon though when that afternoon proved so cold and gray, I was more reconciled than

[*Page 5*]

I should have been — otherwise. If I had not been sure in the morning of our seeing the other side of the river — in the afternoon, I should have done differently — Even if the strata make the terraces (as Father believed) I know that one might learn interesting things from studying the Vineyard proper — Whether these things would belong

[*Page 6*]

to the Northmen must be told by wiser heads than mine.

I should fail very much if I didn't tell one thing; what great pleasure your brief visit gave my mother and sisters not to speak of

your affectionate

S. O. J.

Notes

Craigie Street: John W. Willoughby says that the Horsfords lived at 27 Craigie Street in Cambridge, MA, near neighbors of the Longfellows.

Vineyard: Jewett devotes several paragraphs to the Vineyard area of the town of South Berwick, ME, in her historical essay, "The Old Town of Berwick."

Horsford was interested in evidence that would support his long-running attempts to demonstrate that Normans had settled for a time in Canada and New England long before Columbus and the French and British colonists.

Gorges: The British soldier, Sir Ferdinando Gorges (1565-1647) was a founder of the Province of Maine in 1622, though he never traveled to the Americas. His son, Robert Gorges, was Governor-General of New England, 1623-1624.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 63: Folder 41. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

Tuesday night

[*11 December 1888*]*

I did not half take it in about your fair dearest — and it has been a bad day indeed; now why dont you advertise it for Thursday again and let me send you a quantity of new things — I can send you some of Mr. [Millets' *?*]* pictures{,} some roses!! and fans [around *?*] [*unrecognized words*]

[*Page 2*]

have — a few portrait photographs etc —

Write me if I shall — and how it went off — I have not been out today — I was afeard! A Woman & I have just saluted across the dripping street —

Your A.F.

Notes

1888: Church fairs usually took place in the weeks before Christmas, selling donated items to raise money for Christmas charity. This suggests that the envelope associated with this letter may be the right one. It is addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, postmarked 9:45 p.m. on 11 December 1888. In 1888, 11 December fell on a Tuesday.

Millets: Josiah Byram Millet. See Annie Fields to a member of the Loring Family, 18 June 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence, 100 letters from Annie Adams Fields, bMS Am 1743.1 Box 1, Item 33.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

Danvers

12/14 1888

My dear Friend

How good it was for thee to write me, when tired and overworked, as I know thee must have been! I have read the Report of the Associated Charities,* which thee kindly sent me, and laid it down with a fuller comprehension of the magnitude as well as the need of the great work you have undertaken. It is the very

[*Page 2*]

Science of Charity; no longer a blind instinct of indiscriminate pity making the poverty it seeks to relieve, but a clear-eyed, and wise benevolence, which helps the poor and suffering by aiding them to help themselves{.} It is a very noble work, but I am afraid it tasks thy strength too much.

Where are Mr & Mrs Ward now? I heard they were to occupy a cottage

[*Page 3*]

on an island near Hampton.* I should think it might be a little too lonesome before Spring, and that the young gentleman would feel a drawing towards the fashion and folly of the [Hygeia *?*] Hotel on the mainland. To see in the distance the dancers crossing its lighted windows must be tempting.

I am I think better in health than I was when I saw thee; but the winter

[*Page 4*]

opens rather [uneasily *?*]{.} Still I mean to make the most and best of it. If I cannot read in these long evenings, I will think of what I <u>have</u> read, and if I cannot see my friends as often as I wish, I can take pleasure in thinking of them.

I suppose our dear Sarah* will be with thee before Christmas. I am just now a good deal beset by pilgrims & interviewers. I hope

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

I shall be let alone on the 17<u>th</u>.* I should not be sorry to see a snow-storm on that day.

[*Up the left margin and into the top margin of page 1*]

I am glad of the great [overturn *?*] in Boston* and the courage of the women voters. How did it seem to elbow thy way to the noble [*unrecognized word*] throng of men ~~fo~~ folk{?}

Ever most affectionately

thy friend

J. G. W.

Notes

Report of the Associated Charities: Fields was deeply involved in the administration and delivery of aid by the Associated Charities of Boston. To understand how the organization operated, see her 1884 book, *How To Help the Poor.*

Mr. and Mrs. Ward ... Hampton: Whittier refers to the newly married Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Key to Correspondents) and the much younger author, Herbert Dickinson Ward (1861-1932). In his letter to Fields of 29 October 1888, Whittier reports hearing that General S. C. Armstrong (Key to Correspondents) had offered the couple a cottage at the Hampton Institute. The transcription of "Hygeia" is uncertain, but there was, in fact, a large Hygeia Hotel near Fort Monroe at Old Point Comfort in Hampton, VA. See "Fort Monroe" in Wikipedia.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

17th: Whittier's birthday as 17 December. In 1888, he turned 81.

Boston: Almost certainly Whittier speaks of the December 1888 Boston school election, in which Irish Catholics and Protestants contended over the teaching of religious history in Boston schools. Women were able to vote, and they were heavily canvassed by both sides. Whittier and Fields apparently favored the winning, Protestant side, which within the following two years was able to remove all Catholics from the school board. See Edmund B. Thomas, Jr. "School Suffrage and the Campaign for Women's Suffrage in Massachusetts, 1879-1920."

This event would seem to shed interesting light upon Jewett's series of "Irish" stories. Just a month later, she published her first such story, "The Luck of the Bogans" (*Scribner's*, January 1889); in May of 1893, she published the third, "Between Mass and Vespers" (*Scribner's*), in which an Irish priest is the protagonist.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4856.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Hamlin Garland

South Berwick Maine

18 December 1888

Dear Sir

I am sorry that I shall not be able to use these tickets* which you have kindly sent and I hasten to return them so that you may give some-body else the pleasure which I must lose.

With thanks

Yours truly

S. O. Jewett

To

Hamlin Garland Esq[r]

Notes

tickets: It is not yet known for which event Garland has provided tickets. At this time of year in 1888, there were multiple types of ticketed events to choose from, including lectures, opera ranging from *Tosca* to *The Mikado*, and popular theater.

This transcription is from the digital copy at the University of Southern California Digital Library, Hamlin Garland Correspondence 1864-1941: Sarah Orne Jewett letter 1888-12-18.

Previous transcriber James Nagel published and discussed his transcription in "Sarah Orne Jewett Writes to Hamlin Garland." *The New England Quarterly* 54.3 (September 1981), pp. 416-23. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

Portsmouth

[*21 December 1888*]

Dearest Pinny:

Just got yr note & send Karl* right out with the box for the [express *corrected*]. The bowl* is ten dollars. I hope you will like it.

Dear love in great haste from your

Sandpiper

Dec. 21st

47 State St.

[*Penciled up the left margin*]

You didn't say st or number — hope it will get to you!

Notes

Karl: Thaxter's disabled oldest son.

bowl: One of Thaxter's income sources was selling china she painted with images of flowers and birds.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence MS Am 1743 Box 4, item 211. Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) 1835-1894. 10 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1888-1890 & [n.d.], 1888-1890.

A typescript is held by the Portsmouth Athenaeum MS129, Rosamond Thaxter's Papers for *Sandpiper*, Folder 12: Correspondence: Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1888-1893. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

47 State St — Dec. 26th (88

Beloved Pinny:

Do pardon the pencil, but I'm so tired with xmas! pleasant tho* it was — I want to thank you the first minute I have, first for your check, which was too much, so I regard it as a xmas present, & the lovely bureau-cover & the picture papers for Karl* — he sends you many thanks — How kind you are to us, Pinny dear!

When are you coming to see us again? Very soon I hope. Was the bowl* exactly what you wished? If it wasn't I'll make you another for nothing —

Pardon poor scrawl from yr loving but tired

Sandpiper

Notes

Karl: Thaxter's disabled oldest son.

bowl: Presumably, Thaxter has painted a china bowl for Jewett. See Thaxter to Jewett of 21 December 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence MS Am 1743 Box 4, item 211. Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) 1835-1894. 10 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1888-1890 & [n.d.], 1888-1890.

A typescript is held by the Portsmouth Athenaeum MS129, Rosamond Thaxter's Papers for *Sandpiper*, Folder 12: Correspondence: Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1888-1893. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

148 Charles St.

27 December

[*1888*]*

My dear Loulie

Now <u>these</u> pictures of you and my Marianne* I truly like — but yours better than hers a little — the truth is I wish to see my Marianne with my own eyes — she has been a photograph person far too long and we are now such old friends. But she makes a delightful Christmas card and so do you — and I thank you both and send you my love and a kiss apiece and

[*Page 2*]

a new year wish and blessing into the bargain. What our Marianne needs now is to come over to Boston and to stay a whole summer at Beverly. She will never cause such international complications as your Lord [Sackville *?*]* either!

I must not stop to write a letter today, only for a word and bit of a frolic as if we met in Charley Street both late for our luncheons —

And speaking of luncheons reminds me of such fun

[*Page 3*]

yesterday at a sewing school feast at Trinity Chapel, where we went and in company with Mr. Brooks* and other friends stuffed some hundreds of very small girls with turkey and tarts — Mr. Brooks was so funny and kind and delightful like Gulliver* among little girl [Lilliputians *corrected*], and then they sang carols and <u>we</u> sang carols and when I parted from Mr. Brooks he piped up just like a little black [Eliza *corrected*] who sat next him — "Good by — y — Good by —— y. Be always kind and goo — ood" — and altogether it was

[*Page 4*]

as satisfactory as any part of Christmas! — I came to town on the Saturday afternoon before Christmas and was promptly afflicted with a lame hand or two and thought for a time that I was quite miserable, but I feel better now and mean to get to work again very soon and to play immediately if not sooner. It is a wonderfully pleasant weather. Good bye dear Loulie — give my love to Mamma and Ellis — Yours with a dozen best wishes

S.O.J.

I am going to send you an Irish story* which I like myself to have written. It seems to me a direct pointing toward a

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

final Tauchnitz !!! Perhaps you wont agree but it is a little wider bit of canvas to my mind. There is also a new one — of [Captains *?*] and a place like Portsmouth but not in print yet.

A.F. sends dear love and thanks for the most obliging little [*unrecognized word*].

Notes

1888: This speculative date rests partly upon the possibility that in her postscript, she refers to new stories that appeared in January and December of 1889. Stronger support comes from her apparent reference to a recent diplomatic incident involving the British diplomat Lionel Sackville-West, See notes below.

Marianne: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Sackville: If this transcription is correct, Jewett may refer to British diplomat Lionel Sackville-West, 2nd Baron Sackville (1827-1908), who was Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States (1881-1888). Baron Sackville became embroiled in controversy in the months before the 1888 presidential election, beginning when he undiplomatically responded to a letter soliciting his opinion on whom to vote for. He was then recalled.

Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Gulliver: Anglo-Irish author Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) published *Gulliver's Travels* in 1726. Gulliver's first voyage led him among the Lilliputians, a race of tiny people.

Irish story: Jewett published a story of Irish immigrants in *Scribner's*, January 1889, "The Luck of the Bogans." In December 1889, in *Harper's*, appeared "The Taking of Captain Ball."

While it is not certain that these are the stories Jewett refers to, it seems probable that they are.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett

Dresden Dec. 27, 1888

The old year shall not go by, dear S. O. J. without a less hurried greeting between us than the last I sent you.

I have been writing any number of useful, necessary letters lately, but before doing up various German aunts & cousins sprinkled up & down the Rhine, I must reward myself for future as well as past virtue, by a talk with you.

I believe I am getting quite aged, for I find writing letters is no longer the congenial occupation ^in itself^ I once found it & it now depends entirely upon to whom the letters are written. It is really a pleasure to write to you, especially when I hear that you like to read my letters — in fact it [is *?*] quite ruinous to my natural modesty to hear that Mrs. Fields & Mrs. Lodge* are interested in anything I relate — & of course Mrs. Lodge is quite welcome to reading my yarns provided she cares to.

[*Page 2*]

Today it ought to be a long yarn, there is so much spinning in my head — The German Christmas sweeps all before it, & I have been living in an atmosphere of Christmas-tree & gilt gingerbread & other things that I specially delight in — — Also before this I have had such interesting experiences —

But I will try to give you a whiff of Christmas in Germany first — The pleasantest thing about it is the way that <u>everybody</u> gives themselves up to it body & soul — the very [Dienstmänner *?*] (messengers that stand on the streets) & Cab drivers have an air of extra good nature & suppressed excitement, & everyone on the street is full of business & importance, & there is a better understanding between Mankind, with this Free Masonry of "Christmas"* in the air. You know <u>everyone</u> has a tree, — All the squares of the city turn into forests, & the days before the 24th the trees promenade about the streets till Macbeth is nothing to it—* There is a man behind the tree, but no one who can afford it, would invest in such a small

[*Page 3*]

one that the bearer w'd be visible!

— The poorest women go to the tree-sellers {for} the cast-off branches & make a little celebration with one or two candles — * ^The peasants about Dresden have a curious "eerie" old custom; — on Christmas night they carry the trees to the churchyards — stripped of all but the candles — these they light again, & leave the trees standing in the graves. Is not that an odd touch of poetry?^ As for me I have been deep in it — On the 23d I helped some friends dress their tree — such a monster! A huge step-ladder hardly made it possible to reach the higher branches, & we all worked all afternoon & evening tying strings on cakes & stars & toys & then hanging them artistically. As a surprise I dressed a little tree for our private selves — but they had one in the hotel beside. My best tree was at my friend's Lily v. Dzienbouska's,* because it was for my small four-year-old friend, & I would enjoy <u>him</u> with it. He is the sweetest child, a creature all life & vigour, & yet with sympathy & thoughtfulness rare at any

age. He had a surprise for us, which acted wholesome as a counter-excitement to that of the tree — just as the doors opened & showed the lights behind, he

[*Page 4*]

appeared in the guise of a Christmas cherub, with a "verschen" to say & ^a^ basket of flowers in each hand, gifts for his mother & grand-father, for whom the surprise was planned. I have never seen anything half so pretty; the little white & silver dress & gauze wings seemed the natural setting for the child's brilliant beauty & unconscious sweetness — he has long gold curls, & great blue eyes, & dimples, & he was so solemn & so impressed, saying his "verse" quite carefully & very earnestly, but entirely unintelligibly.

— Afterward he subsided into a boy, & seemed more commonplace in a red velvet suit, lace [collar *corrected*], but it was pretty to see his ecstacies over a live bird in a cage, & a large hand organ, (only to be worked by tremendous exertion, it seems of head & legs as well as of arms!) which shared his especial affections together with a real umbrella — carefully proportioned to the miniature size of the small owner. It was pretty that the little man never forgot his manners, & amid all the excitement & glory of tree & a cartload of toys

[*Page 5*, *numbered 2 by Dresel*]

went from one ~~to a~~ friend to another with hugs & kisses & quaint acknowledgement of their gifts — He is a rare example that a petted & adored child is not always a spoiled one —

Tomorrow his mother is to have the tree lighted again, & have a Christmas party for 32 poor children & their mothers. She has been running a sewing circle, & there are enough garments for each child to be well provided, & the mothers too & beside, each household gets a couple of pounds of meat & packages of coffee, rice, & sugar, & gilt gingerbread & penny boxes for the children — Of course I think it is well that our poor in Boston should be taken care of, but oh dear — how different it is here! — Think of people who do not know the taste of meat, who live on black bread & acorn-coffee (or some such mess!) with an occasional cabbage, & too many potatoes, from year's end to year's end, & are happy & contented, on it, as long as both man & wife can work & earn the rent & the bread & potatoes.

[*Page 6*]

Lily's poor people are cases where the husband ^can't work or the woman^ is ill ~~or there is no~~ {or is} a widow, — in these cases it is hard indeed to keep body & soul together. Intemperance & shiftlessness are nearly unknown — Of course sometimes an incapable case turns up that can't be dragged along, but they are so hard-working & economical as a race that a little help seems to go a long way. Mrs. Lehmann* & Lily v. Dz. have just taken charge of such a piteous case — a poor little woman with five children under ten years old, the husband just dead after five months agony from some horrible disease — The poor wife was walking in the street, perfectly hopeless, no bread & no money in the house — when she was stopped by another woman — a poorly dressed one, but of a better class, she says, — who asked her why she was crying — She told her her story, & added she had no friends, & knew of no help — The woman said: "In this street there lives a good lady who will help you — Frau Lehmann — go to her" — the poor creature said she never had begged in her life — but the other said "it won't be

[*Page 7*]

begging, you will find a friend ——"

Is this not odd? — Mrs L. has no idea who it can have been that told her — Certainly for her an angel in disguise,* & the little woman firmly believes it was a special message from "der liebe Gott" —*

At any rate, her rent is paid, & she feels taken care of, & is making paper-boxes with much energy & cheerfulness, & feeding those five poor little chicks on the proceeds, converted into potato-parings & messy coffee! —

— Marianne* writes to me entreating me to come to Leipzig before their tree is dismantled, but I shall wait till after New Years now, as I am going on then to a big ball. I am having a queer dress made, "Empire" style, pale yellow lace & a dull blue sash — it is not at all hideous, though it sounds so — Marianne is to be in pink & black, with many roses & she will look like one herself — You see we are both going in for "pomps & vanities" & I daresay I shall enjoy it, with Marianne to pull me through, truth to tell I am

[*Page 8*]

rather frightened at the prospect — hate ball-dress toggery & have violent stage fright till the last minute — However, as Marianne has set her heart on taking me to this ball, I go like a lamb to the altar, & have quite a fellow-feeling for Iphigenia* for the first time!

It seems unnatural & horrid that I should feel so! — I acknowledge I like it — mildly — when I am once there — but beforehand! — But I was not made to shine in society — —

— Sometimes I wonder whether I shall ever shine in any way — & in which is certainly undecided!

My painting has been taking a rest — life has been too distracting to settle down to it much — I have only accomplished one good piece of work

— I think the best on the whole — certainly the most mature. It is a present for Mrs. Brockhaus — quite a big water-color — 14 in. x 20 about— the subject, old, Beverly wharves on a gray day — a schooner lying by, & an old salt at work on a barrel — There is less made of all this foreground — &

[*Page 9, marked page 3 by Dresel*]

the sky with dark scurrying clouds, & glassy water with old piles reflected in it, are emphasized as the principal things —

I thought so much of some of your stories while I was painting that I am sure some of my inspiration came from you — I wish you could see the picture — I can show you the original sketch some day, but that looked puny & weak beside the new one. —

I spent a week in Berlin shortly before Christmas — combining pain & pleasure — dentist & the joys of sight-seeing & friendship. Mamma was there a couple days, & then I went to stay with my friend Lili Hensel,* at Westend, just out of Berlin — I wrote to you of her, did I not? —

After our visit together in Aussee & journey back together I felt very intimate with her, but it was my first acquaintance with her family & the household Hensel —

— — Such dear cordial people, — so much real cultivation & talent, & refinement

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of the best kind. Certainly a "feast of wit "& "flow of soul",* but O ye Gods! such a queer harum-scarum as regards outwards! Only endurable by the amiable unconsciousness of all the inmates that anything was out of the way! — What did it matter after all, that we had the roast beef for dinner, & the cauliflower that ought to have gone with it, for supper, as long as the "Hausfrau" preserved a calm equanimity, & every one took it as a matter of course! — That the curling tongs were heated on the family tea-kettle seemed charmingly naïve & delightful, as long as the family seemed accustomed to it, & were all of the same easy-going affectionate impulsive type! —

Of course I loved all this little by-play, — it is wicked of me to relate it, & should you ever meet any of the charming family Hensel you must preserve a discreet silence & merely chuckle to

[*Page 11*]

yourself! — Never mind, it is refreshing nowadays to meet with the opposite when "high living" seems to be the [rule *corrected*'] & I enjoyed immensely the literary and artistic atmosphere of the house. Mrs. H a most brilliant cultivated woman, with the reputation of a "bluestocking," is in very poor health, — I imagine the queer ways of the household are much owing to this. Mr. H., is both writer & artist in his leisure hours — a man of liberal progressive ideas, & keen intellect, a brilliant talker, & almost sharply witty, — the faintest resemblance of a joke is received with applause, & the ball is kept rolling by intricacies of allusion that escape my duller senses at times — though my enjoyment of the broader hits was an evident encouragement & satisfaction to them.

[*Page 12*]

My friend Lili is engaged to a son of the great scientist du Bois-Reymond* — & I made the acquaintance of several of the five daughters & three sons of the family. Such pleasant cosy people, with the ease of manners & self-possession that comes with an assured position, & the best kind of cultivation, not to say learnedness, which is evidently the strong under-current of life with them, but never obtrusively on the surface — They are types of Advanced German thought — the new German liberal element, that centered around the Emperor ~~Will~~ Friedrich —

This type was a new study to me — very different from the old-fashioned steady-going Conservatism of the Brockhauses & other friends, — who welcome the young Emperors every endeavor to uphold the old régime inaugurated by his grandfather, as the only means of Germany's salvation, while these liberal pioneers mourn Friedrich's* ^death^ as the setting of their rising star. The reaction in favor of Conservatism is very strong

[*Page 13, marked as page 4 by Dresel*]

just now — & I think it is as well — the German Empire is too young to try its wings in such a new departure, & I think it is well it should grow & [develope *so spelled*] more gradually under the old rule & Bismark's* protecting care. Friedrich's policy was a noble, progressive, & liberal one, but the times were not ripe for it — he was in advance of his age, & will be appreciated better when general ideas have grown up to his —

—— As with all Germans of the liberal school, America is the Ideal of their secret souls, & I had several long discussions with Mr. Hensel, rather enjoying dispelling several illusions, as to the seraphic condition of politics, & ^vastly^ superior position of women in America, for instance!

—— I walked with Mr. H. to the old Charlottenburg Schloss* where Friedrich passed the last months of his life — it is such a quaint old place, in early rococo style, with copper roofs, green with age —

[*Page 14*]

There are wings extending around a large courtyard that is paved with tiles, & ^~~it~~^ has queer

box hedges growing in patterns in the centre. The park even in winter, is a lovely dreamy place, with beautiful old trees, & long stately avenues, & lakes, & odd rococo Pavilions. The Mausoleum is at the end of a long avenue of dark firs, a small ^pseudo^ Greek temple standing among dark evergreens — I had never seen the famous Rauch Statues of Queen Luise & her Friedrich Wilhelm* — they are certainly most impressive — there is an indescribable atmosphere of peace & rest in the little place, the reclining statues & dim light, & marble walls covered with laurel-wreaths & other tributes to the dear old Emperor William — whose coffin stands in a little adjoining chapel, ~~cofl~~ covered by a mountain of dry wreaths & flowers — There is to be a special Mausoleum in the Park, close to that of his father & mother, as he especially desired it. Friedrich lies in the Potsdam Church —

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— You have seen Hensel's book "Familie Mendelssohn," with the portrait-sketches by Hensel, père? These Hensels have the whole collection of drawings, — 49 volumes! I looked through a number with much interest — especially portraits of Fanny, neé Mendelssohn, — Felix & the rest of his family — There was an interesting sketch of the old Emperor, as [Crownprince *so written*] in 1842, with his signature below, & on the opposite page a rough scrawl by his royal hand, to show the way his orders were to be placed & were not!

There was another sketch that interested me deeply — a portrait of the poet Heine,* — as quite a youth, with long hair & a delicate sensitive face — Also with signature & a few lines of quotation below —

— Do you know Chodowieki's* etchings & prints? — He was an ancestor of Lil Hensel's "young man" — He always seemed to me so very ancient & far-off & here he turns up to have been somebody's great-grandfather!

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— Do you know Pierre Loti's books?* There is a charming little Japanese story in the November "Revue des Deux Mondes," & I have been much delighted with his "Pecheur D'Islande" — it is very tragical, but singularly fresh, true & tender to have come from a French pen — There are scenes that reminded me of your work — A poor old woman with a dead cat, that is <u>too</u> pathetic. The scene is in Brittany — there is a wild passionate strain running through the whole, in keeping with the strangeness & Northern voyages, but the whole is told so well, & the local coloring one <u>feels</u> to be so wonderful, that I hope you will read it if you have not already — They say "Mon frère Yves" is equally good, but I cannot believe it, till I read it, at least! —

Last summer I took quite a course of G. Eliot,* — Daniel Deronda, Clerical Life, Theophrastus, & the ["Life' *so written*] — beside several German novels — Taylor's "Antinous"* being the most <u>lasting</u> of those.

[*Page 17, marked as page 5 by Dresel*]

I also tried Bulwer, & read "My Novel,"* not without much scolding and [fuming *?*] — Did I tell you that Marianne & I read your "King of Folly Island"* book together? She loved the "Village Shop" till just at the end, & then was in a perfect rage at Leonard's marrying Nellie after all! ... "horrid selfish man, such <u>abominably good luck</u>, & the library beside!" — Her very excitement was a proof of how <u>real</u> you had made the people to her, & when I said so, she rejoined: "yes, <u>that is the worst of it</u>! In real life such good-for-nothings get taken care of too well; what's the good of a book if it's going to be just as provoking?!" And she quite refused to be pacified, referring to the whole conduct of the dear, selfish, booky creature as simply <u>criminal</u>! — You see you have produced a great effect on one mind, whether exactly the one you intended, I do not know! "Miss Tempy" was unalloyed

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satisfaction — we both agree in thinking it one of the very best. "The Country Doctor"* is going to Lili Hensel, whose women's rights' sympathies are working much in that direction just at present.

Our plans are very undecided — Mamma is not so well as she has been, & every now & then I issue an awful threat about carrying her off to Meran* or some such place. Ellie* is to be sent to a Cure at Wilhelmshőhe near Cassel, after New Year — the doctors agree that it is the only <u>speedy</u> & certain treatment for such nerve diseases, & we hope great things from it. Poor boy, it is a dismal idea in the middle of winter, but he is wonderfully brave & puts a cheerful face on the matter, decided to go without troubling Mamma about it, & I think the very fact of the thing being an imperative decision has had a good influence on his nerves & spirits —

— It is a "Kurhaus" where everything is done by physician's advice — one these new-fangled cures made to

[*Page 19*]

suit the new-fangled ills! There are baths & massage & electricity & gymnastics & Lord knows what all, & the skillful combination of all this is said to work wonders —

If it only will in his case, the sacrifice on his part & ours is of course nothing.

— We hear a vague rumor that you & Mrs. Fields are to come to Europe in the spring — we heard it by a mere chance, & knowing by own experience how much better it is not to discuss vague possibilities beforehand with all one's acquaintances, we will be careful not to mention it to others — but we are so delighted to think of possible meetings in some lovely spot. Our pet dream is Venice in May, & Mamma says "do tell Mrs. Fields to make it possible to join us there" — I dare not think of such heavenly visions, but my soberer fancy paints a meeting in Switzerland — or perhaps even in Germany. Will you come to Berlin & Dresden, I wonder?

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& see some of my dear places & dear people? We talk of going South in February but must get Ellie settled first, & of course our plans depend on him — his cure is so uncertain, it may be only 6 weeks, or may be three or four months —

Papa you know plans returning in April — perhaps Mrs. Fields will sail in his steamer which would be a great pleasure to him, & I am sure that he would be only too glad to help about any arrangements, & do everything on the way & on landing that he could to make it easy for her & you — It is such a pleasant idea, that of seeing you both "this side" before very long, that I must try not to think of it too much, for fear of being disappointed at last.

Later

The ducky little book has just come! Dearest thanks. I have not had it & shall love to read it — it is so nice to read a book in that way, & "those ones" shall be read first of course. Again thanks for the object itself, & more thanks for the loving thought that sent it — It must have spent a couple days at the banker's or I should have got it quite punctually — Mrs. Fields' book* & letter for Mamma came on Christmas Eve, just as we were lighting the tree.

[*Filling all the margins of page 1, beginning up the left, then down the top,*

with one line turning back upside town across the very top, and finally up the right.]

There is room up here to send my dearest love — & to Mrs. Fields & to Mrs Lodge too, please. Mamma is going to write to her soon & so sends only thanks in general today, & dear love to you both — Tell Mrs. Fields we are going to read the essays together — "Sylvester"* the last day of the old year we are going to a little party at Lehmanns — to watch the New Year in, — there are all sorts of quaint old German customs — pouring melted lead in cold water to guess one's fortune, & at midnight all the windows are open to hear the bells ring in the New Year & the Christmas tree is lighted for the last time — You see my budget has burst out of all bounds & is running over at the edges! It seems too outrageous to take a 6th sheet! yrs. Loulie.

Notes

Mrs. Fields & Mrs. Lodge: Annie Adams Fields and Mary Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

"Christmas": The first quotation mark is in the subscript position. Dresel continues this practice inconsistently in her letters. This transcription presents nearly all quotation marks in the superscript position.

Macbeth: In William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Macbeth*, Macbeth is told that he cannot die until Birnam Wood moves to his fortress at Dunsinane. This impossibility is realized when his enemies cut branches from trees to disguise their attack on the castle.

candles: Dresel places an asterisk here, and up the right margin adds text that is marked by a beginning asterisk. I have placed the insertion within the letter where she apparently wanted it inserted.

Lily v. Dzienbouska's: Lily von Dzienbouska, if the transcription is correct, has not been identified.

Mrs. Lehmann: This person has not been identified.

angel in disguise: Perhaps an allusion to Hebrews 13:2, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."

"der liebe Gott": German, roughly translating as "dear God."

Marianne: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Iphigenia: In Greek mythology, King Agamemnon is commanded to sacrifice his daughter Iphigenia in order to gain fair winds to sail to the Trojan war.

Lili Hensel ... Westend .. Aussee: As Dresel says, Westend is a locality in Berlin. Dresel also refers to Bad Aussee, a tourist and spa town in central Austria.

Lili Hensel is Elisabeth (Lilli) Hensel (1864-1948), daughter of Ludwig Felix Sebastian Hensel (1830-1898) and Juliette von Adelson (1836-1901) of Berlin-Westend. Sebastian Hensel was the son of Wilhelm Hensel and Fanny Mendelssohn (1805-1847), pianist, composer, and sister of the German composer, Felix Mendelssohn.

Lili's siblings were Fanny Roemer, Cécilie Leo; Prof. Paul Hugo Hensel, Prof. Dr.; Kurt Jacob Wilhelm Sebastian Hensel. Lili married Emil Alard du Bois-Reymond (1860-1922) around 1889.

"feast of wit "& "flow of soul": Dresel may refer to a passage describing mealtime at the home of Sir Joshua Reynolds in *Works of Sir Joshua Reynolds* (1797) by Edmond Malone (v. 1, pp. lv-lvi).

du Bois-Reymond: Emil du Bois-Reymond (1818-1896) was a German physician and physiologist.

Friedrich: Frederick III (1831 - 15 June 1888) was German Emperor and King of Prussia for ninety-nine days in 1888, which was the "Year of the Three Emperors" in Germany. Wilhelm I died on 9 March, and was followed by the reputedly liberal Friedrich William / Frederick III, the husband of Princess Victoria, the daughter of England's Queen Victoria. After his death in June, he was succeeded by his conservative son, Wilhelm II (1859-1941).

Bismark: Otto von Bismarck (1815 -1898) was a conservative Prussian statesman who was the first Chancellor of the German Empire from 1871 to 1890, thus seen as a force of stability in1888, the year of the three emperors.

Charlottenburg Schloss: The Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin contains the graves of the emperors Wilhelm I and Frederick William III. See notes above.

Rauch Statues of Queen Luise & her Friedrich Wilhelm: In 1811, The German sculptor Christian Daniel Rauch (1777-1857) created the marble monument to Queen Louisa of Prussia (1776-1810), wife of Frederick William III (1770-1840), and mother of German Emperor Wilhelm I.

The Wikipedia entry on German Emperor Frederick III notes that he is buried in a mausoleum attached to the Friedenskirche in Potsdam.

Hensel's book "Familie Mendelssohn": Sebastian Hensel's *Die Familie Mendelssohn 1729-1847 : nach Briefen und Tagebüchern* was in print by 1879. It appeared in English translation by 1881.

Heine: The German poet, Christian Johann Heinrich Heine (1797-1856), who was also a journalist, essayist, and literary critic.

Chodowieki's: Daniel Niklaus Chodowiecki (1726-1801) was a Polish/German painter and print-maker with Huguenot ancestry. He became the director of the Berlin Academy of Art.

Pierre Loti's books: Pierre Loti is the pseudonym of Louis Marie-Julien Viaud (1850-1923), a French naval officer and author of exotic novels.

Japanese story... "Pecheur D'Islande" ... "Mon frère Yves": Loti's 1886 novel, *An Iceland Fisherman*, about Breton fisherfolk, probably was his most popular work. His 1883 novel*, Mon Frère Yves,* was one of his early successes. His 1887 novel, *Madame Chrysanthème*, tells a story similar to that of Puccini's 1904 opera, *Madama Butterfly*.

The table of contents for *Revue des Deux Mondes* 90, for November-December 1887 includes Loti's "L'Impératrice Printemps" (The Empress Spring). It was collected in his 1889 book, *Fall Japaneries*.

G. Eliot, — Daniel Deronda, Clerical Life, Theophratsus, & the "Life': Mary Anne Evans (1819-1880) wrote under the name George Eliot. *Daniel Deronda* (1876) was her final novel. *Scenes of Clerical Life* (1857-8), was her first published fiction, a collection of three stories. *Impressions of Theophrastus Such* (1879) also is a work of fiction, experimental in its approach. The "life" Dresel has read is likely J. W. Cross, *Life of George Eliot* (1884).

Taylor's "Antinous": *Antinous: A Romance of Ancient Rome* (1880) by Adolph Hausrath (1837-1909), a German theologian, who wrote historical romances under the pen name of George Taylor. *Antinous* is described as "the story of a soul 'which courted death because the objective restraints of faith had been lost'."

Bulwer ... "My Novel": Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873), English novelist, poet, playwright. Among his many novels was *My Novel, or Varieties in English Life* (1853).

"The King of Folly Island": Jewett's 1888 collection of short stories.

"The Country Doctor": Jewett's 1884 novel.

Meran: Merano is a spa resort town in far northern Italy.

Ellie: Dresel's younger brother, Ellis.

Cure at Wilhelmshőhe: It is likely Dresel refers to Bad Wilhelmshöhe, a state-recognized spa in central Germany.

ducky book: While Dresel seems to imply that this is a book by Jewett, the only book she published in 1888 was *The King of Folly Island*. Possibly she has sent Dresel *A Week Away from Time* (1887), in which Fields and Lodge participated anonymously, but Jewett did not contribute.

Mrs. Fields' book: While one might expect that this gift would be a book by Fields, this is quite unlikely. Dresel suggests that it is an essay collection. Fields had not produced such a book by the end of 1888.

Sylvester: Dresel refers to Saint Sylvester's Day, December 31.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Aldrich

Saturday 29 December

[*1888, from 148 Charles St., Boston*]

My Dear Lilian,

When I saw in the Transcript* that you and Tal* had gone to St. Augustine I thought that you were only thinking about it, but when I met Mr. T.B.A. yesterday I found that you had really flown. I shall miss you and I wish that you hadn't had to go, but I envy you all the same for I know how you must feel as if you were let out of jail in this weather.

[*page 2*]

I hope that I shall see St. Augustine ^again^ myself for I did have such a good time there and thought it such a charming, enchanting sort of place. I can imagine you going all about — and do go to old Mr. Vedders curiosity shop and view his beasts and birds and big [*deleted word*] snakes and see how the nephew Vedder came honestly by his strange fancies!* And be sure to go to Anacosta [*meaning Anastasia*] Island to play on the beach and if you want a friend go to see Dr. Smith who did so well for A. F.*

[*page 3*]

and was such a kind friend to us. Whether you need him as a doctor or not. And give him our best regards. How I wish that I were there with you! but we must talk it all over when you come home. Was my pretty turtle (bestuck with useful pins) a symbol of the land to which you fled? I didn't take it so, and I was on my way to see you yesterday all unconscious of your being so far away.

We heard of a delightful

[*page 4*]

new hotel* on the Gulf side way down farther south in Florida. I wonder if you will find it out? but I forget its name. Dont linger in places like Palatka along the river,* I think the river air pulls one down but the longer you stay in St. Augustine the better you feel. Goodbye and love to both of you. I <u>hope</u> that you are ^in^ the Ponce de Leon* where we were so comfortable and happy, but perhaps it isn't open yet. A. F. sends love and I mean to write you often{.}

Yours affectionately "Sadie"

Notes

Transcript: The Boston *Evening Transcript* for 27 December 1888, p. 2, carried this "Personal" announcement: "Mrs. T. B. Aldrich has gone to St. Augustine with one of her sons, whose physician has advised a milder climate for a while."

Tal: The Aldriches' twin sons, Talbot and Charles were born in 1868.

Mr. Vedders curiosity shop: "Florida's Lost Tourist Attractions: The Vedder Museum" says of Mr. Vedder (1819-1899):

> Dr. John Vedder, his title as 'Doctor' stemming not from a University but the remnant of a short stint practicing as a self-taught dentist, was born in Schenectady, New York, on July 22, 1819. He seems to have been a bit of an adventurer, traveling and working at various times and places as a soldier, blacksmith, machinist, locomotive engineer, inventor, dentist, taxidermist, and, in his final occupation, museum and zoo curator.
>
> In his travels he had gathered a large collection of natural oddities and curiosities, including many animal specimens he stuffed and mounted himself. He turned them into a traveling display for a time and then, in the 1880's, opened a permanent museum in an old colonial era house on the corner of Bay and Treasury Streets in St. Augustine. A major part of his attraction was also an exhibit of live animals, including collections of snakes, birds, alligators, and some other native and exotic wildlife.

After Vedder's death, the museum was purchased by the St. Augustine Historical Society, but the building and the collection were lost in a fire in 1914.

strange fancies: It is probable Jewett refers to Elihu Vedder, 1836-1893, a prominent contemporary painter, illustrator and author, known for his use of fantasy. Elihu was a member of the Vedder family of Schenectady. Jewett was familiar with Elihu Vedder's work, mentioning him in an 1886 book review.

Dr. Smith … A. F. : Probably, Jewett refers to the prominent St. Augustine physician, Frank F. Smith, who practiced in the Post Office block, near the major hotels, and who helped to care for Annie Fields the previous spring. Born in Hillsboro, NH, in 1854, Smith studied at Dartmouth College and the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, completing his work in 1883. After a year at the Kellogg Sanitarium at Battle Creek, MI, he took up practice in St. Augustine, where by 1888, though young, he was well-established both as a physician on the medical staff of the new Alicia Hospital and as a promoter of St. Augustine's healthy winter climate.

new hotel: According to Thomas Graham, Henry Plant opened the palatial Tampa Bay Hotel in 1888, hoping to compete successfully with Flagler's new east coast Florida hotels. See Chapter 14 of *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine*. It is likely Jewett refers to this hotel.

Palatka along the river: Palatka, FL, on the St. Johns River, about 30 miles southwest of St. Augustine, became a winter health resort before the Civil War. Through the 1880s, the town continued to attract tourists with several large hotels.

de Leon: In Chapter 12 of *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine*, Thomas Graham reports that the Ponce de Leon did not open for this season until January 10, 1889. Flagler's Alcazar Hotel opened on Christmas Day in 1888, not long after a yellow fever quarantine had been lifted. Mrs. Aldrich and Tal could have stayed at any of several hotels upon arriving in St. Augustine, but not at the Ponce de Leon.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 119 letters to Thomas Bailey and Lillian (Woodman) Aldrich; [188-]-[1902]. Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1836-1907. Thomas Bailey Aldrich papers, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (2654-2772). Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.